

SEVEN DAYS

DOUBLE ISSUE



2016

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Mr. Stone

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BY JENNIFER MCGOWAN

PHOTOGRAPH BY

CHRISTINE DIAZ

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SEVEN DAYS

FRIDAY JULY

FEEDBACK

7

READER REACTION TO RECENT ARTICLES

A BETTER WAY?

At a recent meeting at the Champlain Elementary School, there was an attempt to speak of [Off Message: "Champlain Perkins Review'd at 'Unexpectedly Civil' Meeting" December 11] it was clear the \$30 million, 2.5-mile road is a fast approach, which means something that has been done and cannot change.

I would like to propose a creative alternative that would take cars off the road, cut carbon pollution, and move people in and out of the city with ease. A light-rail system following the route of the Champlain Parkway would begin at Route 7 and terminate I-89 — and connect at some point to the current state tracks around the Range Canal — moving people into the city. Car parking would be provided at Route 7. The large Kroc parking lot has plenty of room for cars and future housing. Why not?

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Is light-rail doesn't work now perhaps it could work in the future? In the meantime, electric buses could transport folks off Shelburne Road into the city along the Parkway with an added line on

the western edge of Pine Street around the Barge Canal. Perhaps it's not too late.

Ron Krupp
SOUTH BURLINGTON

REPORT IS WRONG

Seven Days cites a study purporting to show that marijuana-related driving fatalities in Colorado rose by 32 percent in 2014 ("Will Marijuana Safety Put the Brakes on Legalizing Pot in Vermont?" December 9). The so-called "increase" is primarily due to the fact that for 2013, fatalities were counted as "marijuana-related" if the driver had a THC level of 2 nanograms, but then in 2014 anyone with a THC level of 5 nanograms was counted. That's not an increase — it's counting two different things!

Further, Colorado standard for drugged driving is actually 5 nanograms, calling into question whether a majority of the deaths tested, whether at 1 or 2 nanograms, were under the influence of marijuana at all — particularly as THC can remain in the bloodstream for weeks after the effects have worn off.

It's unfortunate that this sort of shameless, politically motivated statistical manipulation continues to be used.

David Tolonen
PROBLEMY

Editor's note: The story did include challenges to Colorado's 5 percent

LET'S GET IT OFF THE GROUND

REVIEWER REACTION TO "THE CHAMPLAIN PARKWAY: A BETTER WAY?"

By ROBERT L. BROWN

Editor, *Champlain Times*

ADMITTEDLY I'M A FAN

John Atkinson, *Champlain Times*

MANUFACTURER OF THE CHAMPLAIN PARKWAY

John Atkinson, *Champlain Times*

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Contributed by John Atkinson, *Champlain Times*

Keith J. Kelley, *Route 7 News*, *Champlain Times*

John Atkinson, *Champlain Times*

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Ron Krupp
SOUTH BURLINGTON



BY ROBERT L. BROWN

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study Matt Simon of the Marijuana Policy Project characterized it as the "misleading" work of anti-regulation interests.

LAND GRABS

The thought of 700-plus acres going into the Burlington College blockhead has already reached a pretty raw nerve with a lot of city residents, including me. [See Message "Agreement Reached for Former Burlington College Property," December 8, Off Message.] "Resilience Pitches Large Apartment Building in Old North End," October 29. I would hope that the Development Review Board, which the final proposal before, would either decline Eric Farina's proposal or at least severely curtail it. (And now another noteworthy development at the foot of North Street! I would hope that this one gets the boot immediately.)

When does the shoehorning of housing into every spare piece of open land end around here? This town is far from the Burlington I grew up in, all due to encroaching, overused roads and infrastructure, and the like factors that we have to provide housing (cheap or otherwise) to everybody who sets foot here. At least, that's what the developers would have us believe, when in fact, they are only after fast money-money you know it. I know it. Please, make it stop, before it's too late.

Dave Parker
BURLINGTON

LITTLE HOUSES, BIG CHANGES

[Next "Troy on the City," December 16, WTVT "What's With All the Tiny Houses in Burlington?" May 4] I remember seeing that North Avenue building as a store when I was young. Perhaps you didn't know the name of the street in the south corner of the Star Press building was a very tiny store, as well. I remember told me that the mother of the Star Press owner ran it. After the store closed permanently, I used to peek in the window at the candy bars, which weren't removed for years following the closure. [WTVT "What Gave On the Dusty Old Star Press on North Avenue?" September 28, 2011] Interesting stuff, indeed, for those of us old enough to remember what Burlington used to look like.

Elliott Barnes
BURLINGTON

HAPPY OFF TRAIL

I loved Ethan DeRuff's most recent article about the Blue Bell Natural Area ["Magic Forest," December 16] with photos by Trista Van Duzer. It's a pleasure to read Ethan's great descriptions of the trails,

the landscape and the natural history of the area. His writing transported me out there, walking in the woods instead of sitting inside at home on a cold, snowless evening. Looking forward to more in the "Off Trail" series.

Sally Cook
BURLINGTON

CARBON CONTORTIONS

[Re Off Message "GOP Wants to Stop Carbon Tax, Which Isn't Moving," October 30.] The chair of the Vermont Republican Party, David Sunderland, is at it again, claiming that Democrats are pushing an \$8.6B tax on working Vermonters. This is absolutely untrue. That is a proposal, a part of a bill, one of 800 that has been introduced in the Vermont House of Representatives. Far from being "flawed," before never saw the light of day, these would need to be measures that working Vermonters would not be hurt, that there would be a long term, phased-in approach, and it would have to involve a consensus approach.

This is Sunderland using some tactics to try to shut down debate on climate change. He has said, "there's science on both sides of the issue." He knows, and 98 percent of Vermonters know, that there is no credible scientific denying climate change. He is trying ever so glibly to back off his and the Republicans' Party's increasingly absurd and indefensible denial. This strategy has a name. It's called "wifling it back."

If climate change wasn't so important and urgent, it would be very entertaining to watch the climate-change deniers construct these less impossible positions. It reminds me of the game Twister – a bunch of lots contorting their bodies into bizarre positions but climate change isn't a children's game. If it were, Sunderland would be winning.

Bill Kuch
BURLINGTON

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2022



the MAGNIFICENT 7

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THURSDAY 31

PARTY TIME

There is no shortage of revelry during Montpelier's New Year's Eve celebration. Before settling in on the statehouse lawn for a festive fireworks show, families can catch Mark the Magician performing some inspiring feats of illusion and hypnosis. The merrymaking continues at city hall, with a blues-fueled bash hosted by poet/beat Dave Koller (pictured). Set the countdown began!

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 30

WEDNESDAY 18

World Music

On the Unisonous musical quartet **Dzhabonious**, National Public Radio says, "No one has more fun than the group's clients, performing, it's hard not to get caught up in the music it creates." An Ahmedabad-based ensemble, Dzhabonious' Sufi-style vocals and therewhorns, the 100-plus percussives, an array based on the traditional sounds of their native country, sounds like magic indeed!

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 30

②

③

SUNDAY 3

View From the Top

There's not a cheap seat in the house as part of the Midwinter New Year's Eve concert (Foothills Winter Solstice Series). The 2013 double-bill **Steve Harriett** (three albums as they play one foot on the floor) and the older on their journey up the learning instrument **Paula Moya**. Viewers watch while Harriett tackles personal challenges along the way.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 31

④

FRIDAY 1

The Great Outdoors

Nature lovers start into 2013 with **First Day Hikes**. Vermont State Parks' winter series of hikes for a variety of family-friendly excursions ranging from easy to difficult. Head to the **Green Mountain National Forest** for a guided trek through pristine old-growth forests and rustic accommodations. The reintroducing **Red-tail** of easy chores to saddle up for New Year's resolutions!

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 31

⑤

WEDNESDAY 6

Stanza and Deliver

Rhyme-and-metaphor **Matthew Lickteig** pens poetry writing by the fire. Rock Creek's best-selling winter **Mark Doty** in **Seasons** category. **Harriet United States poet laureate** Philip Levine describes the 2008 National Book Award winner as "a master of big, bold, bawdy poems in which ordinary human experience becomes music." Doty's *After* is a gift for anyone through *intimacy from his robes to common song*. *Long*

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 32

⑥

THURSDAY 31

Rhythm of the Night

Spunkin' Chumpion, Vermont-based and decked out in gaudy sequins—what more could one want at a year-end costume? **Second Showcase Lounge** houses **Pre-Op New Years Eve Block Party** on 18- and upstairs decks by hot hip-hop, infectious pop and beat downstays quirky Burlingtonians over 21. *Here's to 2014!*

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 34

⑦

OPENING THURSDAY 7

Photographic Evidence

Urban landscapes meet the **Karen Moulton** style of physics, optics and visual art pieces by **Yves Tumor**, **David and Kristin Roth**, **Architectural** and **Industrial**, **Interior** and **Portrait** art, **Anthony** the **videographer**. **"Observation,"** opening January 24, **Ritter Arts** in Montpelier. A reception and artist talk kick off the show at 6 p.m. through March 3.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 31

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The Politics of 2015

Last December, shortly before the end-of-year column went to print, we had to make a significant last-minute edit. A few hours earlier, Gov. **GOV. SPENCER** dropped the biggest news of the year: He was abandoning his long-promised plan to build a single-payer-style health care system in Vermont.

That decision, in many ways, drew the politics of 2015.

Having alienated Democrats, Progressives and Republicans, Sanders limped through his fifth legislative session and, shortly after it concluded, announced he would not seek a fourth term. His surprising retirement launched a cascading series of epic political conflicts — for governor, lieutenant governor, House speaker and the legislature.

That would've been enough to keep any political columnist busy. But 2015 was also the year in which a state senator was arrested for sexual assault on the grounds of the Statehouse. And the governor appointed independent counsel to investigate alleged wrongdoing by the attorney general.

Even those weren't the biggest stories of the year. That was *After* laboring on relative obscurity for nearly 45 years, Vermont's own **NEILING CANDIDE** became a national phenomenon — and the paper alternative to **ROLLING STONE** in the Democratic presidential primary.

It was the year of Bernie Sanders.

With or without Sanders has established himself as a progressive icon and leader of the left. Like former governor **HOWARD BISHOP** he has won Burlington on the political map and brought a uniquely Vermont sensibility to the presidential election.

So what else happened? Here's our list of the top 10 political stories of 2015, in loose chronological order:

Welcome Back!

After the legislature passed late session last January (its first job was to settle the contested 2014 election), Republican **SPENCER** had fallen short of the 38th by 2,434 votes, but instead of conceding the race, he made the unusual decision to contest it before a joint session of the legislature (an task with a 50-49 vote if nobody wins an outright majority).

In the end, legislators split roughly along party lines, with 100 supporting Sanders and 96 backing **BISHOP**.

The reelected incumbent didn't get a chance to celebrate. Later that afternoon, some 250 activists stormed Sanders' third inauguration, demanding hearings on his abandoned single-payer plan. They

ang raged, unfurled banners and staged a sit-in on the House floor.

By the time the last protestor was dragged out of the Statehouse and arrested, **SPIRIT**'s big day felt like a bust.

Ed Talks

Legislators had failed to address rising property taxes during the 2014 session — and paid the price at the polls that November. So they returned to Montpelier in January 2015 with a pledge to tackle the perennial problem.

Leading the charge was House Speaker **SHANE HORN** (D-Montgomery), who assembled a special committee to explore the gravity of education spending in each of the 150 school districts.

After weeks of debate, legislators adopted a school governance reform bill that would create the state's 273 overlapping districts cannot and lacks to merge into larger ones by 2018. Since critics flagged it as a scaling barge, while others characterized it as the end of local control.

If fully, Act 44 would be a potent political issue. School board members were particularly concerned that their budgets would blow through the new law's variable cap on per-pupil spending. In response, **SPIRIT** pledged to return to the Statehouse in January 2016 to delay the cap for a year — or dump it altogether.

Fresher Start

In 2013, a little-known developer and airport commissioner named **SPENCER** came out of nowhere to narrowly win the Democratic nomination for mayor of the Queen City.

Three years later, he's cast off in re-election as Town Meeting Day with 61 percent of the vote — celebrating Progressive **SPENCER** (21 percent), independent **SPENCER** (17 percent) and Libertarian **SPENCER** (1 percent).

When the state's top office opened up in June, **SPENCER** decided to make a move, but not himself. You'll see this 48-year-old pro on a statewide ballot sometime soon.

Special Counsel

Attorney General **SPENCER** recommended to his Montpelier office in March to accuse 2014 **REPRESENTATIVE** **CHRIS BISHOP** of violating public election finance law. He and Corcoran had improperly asked the Vermont Democratic Party to award its support on his behalf.

Spencer's proposed penalty for the \$35,000+ fine is \$10,000.

Over the next six weeks, **SPENCER** published a series of stories demonstrating that **SPIRIT** himself had played fast and loose with campaign finance law. A Republican operative, **BRAD TOWNS**, visited on the stories and filed a series of complaints with the AG's office. Shockingly, **SPIRIT** decided to investigate himself.

After a **SENATE** committee called the AG to question him in April, **GOV. SPENCER** and a panel of state's attorneys appointed former lawmaker **RON URTIA** to investigate the charges. As of press time, Urtia had yet to rule on the long-awaited report.

SPIRIT's appointment in the 2013 Democratic primary, **CHAMOISE**, **CHAMOISE** State's Attorney **ELI BROWNE** announced in June that he was running again. Three months later, **SPIRIT** bowed out of the race.

Numbers Games

The 2015 legislative session was even more eventful than usual.

It opened in January with a \$484-million payroll tax proposal from **SPENCER**. And it closed in May with a budget and tax "standoff" that nearly resulted in a gubernatorial veto.

SPIRIT lost both fights.

His payroll tax, designed to address the Medicaid cash-crunch, never really got an airing. Legislators approved more increases in drafting a state-maintained emergency — but that was, and **SPENCER** didn't at the heads of House leaders.

Most of the session was spent figuring out how to close a \$111-million budget gap. Appropriators managed to find \$88 million in cuts, but that wasn't enough for **SPENCER**, who spent weeks chopping the \$30 million worth of tax bills proposed by legislative leaders.

In the end, **SPENCER** caved and agreed to spare his fellow Democrats a vote to sustain his bill.

The Norm Storm

On Wednesday Thursday night the week before the legislature adjourned, plainclothes Vermont State Police troopers arrested **SEN. NORM MADDEN** (I-Franklin) in a parking lot outside the Statehouse.

Authorities accused him of sexually assaulting two women and stamping them in a course a third. The Highgate farmer pleaded not guilty and was released on bail.

After learning that one of the alleged victims was **MADDEN**'s young daughter,



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POLITICS

IT WAS
THE YEAR OF
BERNIE
MANIA.

assistant leaders of every party called for his resignation and she then was stripped of his committee assignments. But McAllister didn't budge.

An summer turned into fall and fall into winter, Senate leaders stalled McAllister was serious about returning to the Statehouse in 2016. Seeing they didn't have the votes to cap him before he stood trial, they called behind a motion to suspend the senator. It passed the Senate Rules Committee in December and was scheduled for a vote in the House four months later.

Shum's Done

Three weeks after the legislature adjourned, Gov. Shumlin announced staff and cabinet members to a Statehouse meeting room, where he delivered the news that he wouldn't seek a fourth two-year term.

"I spent these 18 months in office to be focused entirely on maximizing the work that we have started together," he told reporters later that evening.

The announcement shocked political insiders, despite Shumlin's dismal legislative record and another two years November. It marked the beginning of the end of an era for a solo Poltar pali who had elbowed the ladder from the town schoolhouse to the Senate presidency to the chairmanship of the Democratic Governors Association.

When his term expired next winter, Shumlin plans to return to southern Vermont with his new wife, *Anna Howe*, and get back to work at the family business, Putney Student Trust.

It's not hard to imagine we'll have seen the last of him.

All In

Shumlin's retirement announcement launched an especially early and competitive gubernatorial race. Within days, nearly every politician with a pulse said he or she was considering a run to replace him in 2016.

The field broadened, briefly, as Congressman **PETER WELCH** (D-Vt.) publicly pondered a bid — but he eventually announced he would seek reelection to the U.S. House.

By autumn it was clear that the principal contenders would be Lt. Gov. **PHIL Scott** and retired investment banker **ERIKER LORWIN** — and, on the Democratic side, Speaker **SCOTT MAYER** and former senator **MATT GUNN**. Shumly dropped out in November to focus on a family health issue.

The race opened at the top of Vermont's political hierarchy as other races hit motion. Currently vying for Scott's job in the U.S. are Rep. **KEITH RAM** (D-Burlington), Sen. **DAVID ZUCKERMAN** (D-Vt.-Chittenden), Meridian Democratic **CHRISTINE RIBER** and 2012 Republican gubernatorial nominee **RANDY BRICK**.

Scott and Zuckerman will abandon their legislative seats to run. And Shumlin's retirement from the legislature will prompt a race for House Speaker.

Tragedy Strikes

The quadruple homicide that rocked central Vermont in August was not a political story, per se. It was a tragedy.

But the members of that family and Vermonters in general certainly had political repercussions, tied as they were to such prior issues as child protection, substance abuse, mental illness and guns.

Most immediately, state workers wondered whether they were being adequately protected from harm. One of the state's DCF caseworkers, *Laura Soto*, was killed as she was leaving work.

Others wondered whether chronic underfunding at DCF contributed to the tragedy. Soto had worked with the alleged shooter, who was apparently upset that her child had been removed from her custody. Four months later, Gov. Shumlin called for 30 new positions at DCF, suggesting that the state's acute crisis was straining the child welfare system.

The tragedy may also add fuel to Vermont's long-running debate over an loi gun laws. When gubernatorial candidate **Mister** announced support for universal background checks in November, she cited the August shooting, saying, "Vermont is not immune to gun violence."

Bern Notice

Thirty-four years after Burlington elected then-major Sen. Sanders announced on April 1 of a Capitol Hill press conference that he would seek the Democratic presidential nomination.

At first, Sanders was treated as a curiosity, not a contender. But the 74-year-old democratic socialist quickly caught fire. Within weeks of his May campaign kickoff on the Burlington waterfront, Sanders was packing scenes coast to coast. The words "Feel the Bern" became a thing.

By September, the bimonthly little-known Vermont was tied with Clinton in Iowa and leading her in New Hampshire. By October he was raising nearly as much money as the formidable frontrunner — largely from small dollar donors.

But Sanders' run took a hit later that month when Vice President **JOE BIDEN** finally declared he would not join the race. With Biden out, Clinton's surface consolidated establishment support — and Sanders' rise seemed to stall. His economic message, meanwhile, faced less resonance after terrorist attacks in Paris and California, reflected the erosion of national security and foreign policy.

Sanders still has a message to go before the Iowa caucuses. As Vermonters have learned by now, it's never wise to count him out. **TD**

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And Then What?

Seven Days reporters update news stories from 2015

BY MARK DAVIS, ALICIA FREESE, TERESA HILLENBECK, MNEYI BEHSEN, AND MOLLY WALSH

No one could say we ignored Bernie Sanders in 2015. Seven Days reporters wrote 11 political columns about the Vermont senator who is running for president, 22 blog posts and 30 print articles, three of which we featured on the cover. Bernie was also the subject of a "Stack in Vermont" video episode, won a couple of Duques awards, and inspired both a Seven Days invitation contest and a Tech Issue story about Vermont-centric emoji.

Not every story has legs like Bernie's, but our news team kept pace with even the other important local developments in 2015. While political editor Paul Heintz was tracking Sanders, and Attorney General Bill Sinnell, Terra Hallenbeck has been all over the governor's race and the Vermont Gas pipeline controversy. On the health care beat, Nancy Rehnen analyzed expansion plans at the University of Vermont Medical Center, construction at the new state office complex at Waterbury and what will hit Vermont Health Connect

Our hometown of Burlington is a battlefield for the rest of the state. Alicia Freese closely followed the evolution of Uber from its first feuds with local cab companies to the city's ongoing attempts to recruit its

**NOT EVERY STORY HAS LEGS LIKE BERNIE'S,
BUT OUR NEWS TEAM KEPT APACE
WITH COUNTLESS OTHER IMPORTANT
LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS IN 2015.**

taxi rivals. She also covered the Champlain Parkway, the Moran Plan and the woes of still-struggling Burlington College, which said it had lost all of its fall-semester classes.

to a housing developer. Molly Walsh applied similar sustained scrutiny to the downtown radio proposed renovation.

In 2015, Mark Davis put 2623 miles on his car chasing down cops, commissioners and convicts to keep up with the criminal justice reform movement, police violence and the impacts of Vermont's practice of shipping inmates out of state. Last January, he filed daily court reports from the historic federal trial of alleged Boston war criminal Edward Seaga. In mid-December, Davis delivered news of a plea deal. The feds will drop the charges against Seaga if he agrees to leave the country.

Outside of their regular beats, Seven Days reporters paid plenty of other stories—some too big to ignore, some that other media outlets missed or glossed over. Plenty of them could be categorized as quirky. To find Vermont's most fascinating characters, and conflicts, often requires driving for and digging deep.

As the year draw to a close, we revisited a few that earned follow-up. ☐

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Alleged Serial Poacher Mounts a Vigorous Defense

FEB 11

Wayne Dorn of Brattleboro may be one of the most prolific deer poachers in Vermont, according to the Fish & Wildlife Service who arrested him in late 2014. A game warden found more than 100 deer mounts, seven bearers full of spikes and even which number was used for which kill and a shooting port in the technique that appeared to be deliberately disguised by the poacher's kills.

Deer tracks showed that antlers were cutting through a ever to visit the property while hunters elsewhere in Vermont were struggling to find any game, witnesses observed. They charged Wayne Dorn with nine counts of illegal killing and shooting mammals. His wife, Jennifer, got slapped with one count of possessing an illegal deer.

"It hurts my feelings," Dorn said of the accusations, which he described as a "total

legal non-story — and, as of press time, appeared to be headed for trial in early 2016.

Much of the case rests on a deer carcass that warden found in the couple's basement. Senior Warden David Gregory measured the non-pertinent of the dead deer's thigh and determined the animal died eight to 10 hours before the start of the 2014 hunting season. Such a premature kill would constitute a violation of Vermont law.

Defense attorneys have challenged the warden's method of ascertaining time of death, calling it just science.

Prosecutors avoided potential disaster when Judge Howard VanDerbynsen denied a request from the defense to discard that evidence. But he forbade Gregory from testifying about measurements taken in similar cases for the sake of consistency and encouraged defense attorneys to question the validity of the method during a "rigorous cross examination."

The jury's decision could affect how warden conduct future poaching investigations in Vermont.

Wayne Dorn



UPDATE: Most poaching cases in Vermont resolve in quick plea deals. But the Dorn one is shaping up to be an "only-in-the-Northwest" Kingdoms

NEWS

In the Tiny Town of Victory, the Feuding Goes On

MAR 18 The Northeast Kingdom may look benign, but its residents bet the next 12 hours will be hell.

Entangled in a decade-long feud, residents of two factions in the tiny town — the Vermont equivalent of the Hatfields versus the McCoys — have hidden out in their homes and accused each other of trapping animals, biting pets and shooting their dogs.

In the last week, the dozen or so residents have sent a reporter to Victory to document the conflict.

"We're screwed up," bemoans former town clerk and Democrat Carol Easter said.

Seven days covered news recent tensions in the ongoing battle of the tiny Vermont town essential to the Bushnell family, who have lived in Victory since the 1950s. Easter, a member of the Victory community, said that those in an opposing camp say it is personal, yet residents Mitchell turned around and sued the town, accusing the officials of carrying out a personal vendetta against her.

The 2010 town meeting was dominated by news that an independent audit of Victory's books turned up missing records, unauthorized spending and evidence of possible embezzlement from the town, which has a \$500,000 budget. A private investigator said the Victory residents gathered that she had found "very significant problems" during back-to-back audits. Her findings triggered a new round of accusations aimed at Mitchell's enemies, who also include former town clerk Perrie LaPointe.

The battle would end, Mitchell's husband predicted. "When we're all dead."

UPDATE: No one has surrendered in Victory.

"I would say it's just as nasty as ever," Pat Mitchell said.

LaPointe, her nemesis, bragged, "We are preceding — the good side."

Shortly after the *Seven Days* story ran, Mitchell ally Tracy Marcell — who successfully ran for town clerk despite allegations that she had joined the "Babes of Victory" — installed a video camera to monitor the goings-on in the town's tiny office.

LaPointe installed a second camera there.

Mitchell resigned, paving the way for former town clerk Carol Easter, whom Marcell had ousted, to reclaim the job.

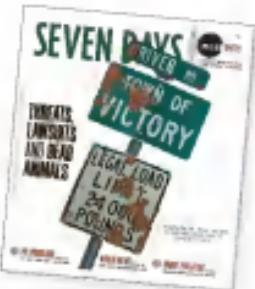
It was not a graceful transition. "I had to catch up on a lot of info. That lady didn't know what she was doing," Easter alleged.

Mitchell's far case continues to wind through the courts. She is still refusing to pay her taxes and has increased her flock to 57 animals. "It would take more than those type of people to make me stop," Mitchell explained.

In the coming weeks, the selectboard will review a highly anticipated audit of the town's books, which some say will include evidence of financial malfeasance.

The town could be ideal for Comedy Central's *Seven Days*: got a call from a "Daily Show with Trevor Noah" producer inquiring about the feud in a possible future feature.

— MHD



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BURLINGTON

Money and Mask Ban Keep Burlington 'Furry'-Free

APR 01 During Burlington's March 2012 incorporation festivities, a city employee dressed as a furry animal crossed the furry animals in residence there twice. The charge? They were performing on Church Street without the required permit.

The invaders are to members of the Vermont Furs—people known as "furries"—who share an interest in art, science, and especially cartoon animals. They had attempted to receive their permit prior to March 2012, according to Jim Schaeffer, who "fursuited" at



a meet car-driving corps—but had been refused to hand off while the Church Street Marketplace reviewed its permit policy.

Many (genuine) furry activists fear Raymond will be supportive of repealing the Vermont Furs's right to remain in Church Street, but he first wanted to ensure permits would be safe. He noted that in New York City's Times Square, people dressed in the Coonster (monster) and Spitzer (Fox) had picketed and grabbed people.

In the meantime, the Vermont Furs learned that Church Street wasn't the only place that was off-limits to them. An entire city ordinance prohibits people over age 18 from wearing masks in public, effectively keeping them out from marching.



UPDATE: The Church Street Marketplace updated its process for permitting street performers, and, as a result, it's a lot harder to make the cut. In the past, "99 percent" of applicants got approved; now, just 40 percent.

Nonetheless, Raymond said, the Vermont Furs would likely pass muster.

Why haven't they auditioned?

The marketplace also upped the price of permits. The group of 12 would have to pay \$540 for a one-year permit, which would cover background checks and administrative costs. That's not feasible for the Vermont Furs, who entertain for free, Owen said.



In their quest to do away with the mask ban, the furries have gained an unlikely ally: Alice Gilbert, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont. In early November, Gilbert urged Burlington to repeal its ordinance after police detained two men wearing Guy Fawkes masks at an Anti-Klan Klan rally. Gilbert argued that masks can be a form of political expression—and therefore protected speech.

In response, Burlington's gay attorney, Edens Hardwood, is analyzing the ban. She expects to recommend "potential revisions" to the city council's ordinance committee in January.

—A.J.

LAW ENFORCEMENT Middlebury Police Probe Potential Link to Cold Case

APR 01 "The Java," "The Life and Death of Robert Durst," "Inferno," and with the story of a creepy and economic谋杀 of a prominent New York City real estate family who may have gotten away with murder. It features the disappearance of prostitutes, hit-and-run accidents, and the killing of two other people he knew.

The Java also mentioned that Durst was likely based in Vermont, and news outlets found out that Durst, 72, lived in Middlebury. His residence in an apartment, though, was on Court Street in Middlebury before he relocate a year ago to Middlebury Castle, an instant shophouse on the day he was missing. In 1991, the last time anyone can place the 70-year-old Durst, he was staying in a room in the Sun Inn, a hotel overlooking the Vermont River, where he was staying across the street from the state possibly waiting for a bus to bring presents

Middlebury police worked the case for nearly two years, never receiving a tip as to what had been causing Durst's frantic burst of activity to go with it. Hence, since his last known documentary gave the department an opportunity to interview the possible connections, it began to dig up and issue out-of-tips.

Provincetown police officers summoned Middlebury after the first press conference on Durst's disappearance. Middlebury police officer Christopher Solti organized a round robin on the Schaefer case.

UPDATE: The burst of publicity did bring in some tips and recollections, but Schaefer's disappearance remains a mystery.

Durst has declined to talk to Middlebury police, according to Chief Thomas Blaskey, who and he believe the incarcerated man could provide information that would help resolve the case.

"We know that there was contact between them, we know that she went in there," Blaskey said, referring to the health food store Durst owned in the 70s.

Local may know more than they're saying out.

"There are some people we suspect are somewhat reluctant to speak with us in depth," Blaskey said, adding, "They may be holding a few things back."

Durst lived outside Middlebury in Lamoille, but five people in the small town remember him. Police have searched his former property and others in the area. Schaefer has never been found.

Durst remains jailed on weapons charges in Louisiana and faces murder charges in California for the death of his friend, Susan Berman.



He may or may not be implicated in Schaefer's disappearance, Blaskey said. Bovedash remains the lead investigator on the matter, which has, over the past year, generated a fair amount of media. According to her, she has no intention of giving up.

—M.W.

ECONOMY

The Weakening Loonie Keeps Some Canadians at Home

APR

08

For more than a decade, Canadian tourists could buy their groceries at the Newport Natural Market and Cafe with their own central currency, but last spring, a right-hand up of the cash register's resonance that the Canadian currency does not change except for fees.

Its value — roughly on par with the U.S. dollar just a couple of years ago — has dropped to about 80 American cents.

Tourism leaders worried that despite Vermonters' tolerance, the Canadian unkindly exchange ratio could discourage our long hours from the north. Overreaching — and spending, apparently in border towns, Vermont tourists turned tail for less.

UPDATE. The Canadian dollar is even weaker now. Since March, its worth has dropped to about 72 American cents.

Boardings at Burlington International Airport, where Canadian traffic is an important source of revenue, are down 24 percent this year from last. Officials are hoping the winter school holidays will bring the usual seasonal bump. "There's still a lot of Canadians coming to Burlington," said Gene Richards, RTV director of aviation.

It's unclear how long the tourism might take. The good news: State rooms and meals tax revenue for the first four months of the fiscal year that started in July is running 6.9 percent higher than last year — so somebody's spending money.

Some state highway welcome centers are seeing more visitors. Yet the welcome

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE



center on northbound Interstate 89 near the Canadian border reported 75 percent fewer visitors in October.

On Church Street, Canadians typically account for between 4 and 8 percent of sales, according to Linda Hodson, executive director of the Church Street Marketplace Commission.

THE WELCOME CENTER ON SOUTHBOUND INTERSTATE 89 NEAR THE CANADIAN BORDER REPORTED 75 PERCENT FEWER VISITORS IN OCTOBER.

At the Thumper store there, much of the normal Canadian shopping traffic has "disappeared," said Mike Bouchard, co-owner of the family business. "I speak French, and I do a lot of the talking to the French customers who come into the store, and they haven't been here. Last weekend I may have seen one French-speaking couple in the store, and that's highly unusual."

Still, December sales were on track to finish 26 percent higher than last December, making it an "outstanding" month, Bouchard and Wigt. Vermont shoppers are confident about the economy, he said, and December's unusually warm weather helped.

— H.W.

ANDREW MCKEE/W-T

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HOMEPORT

And Then What? p. 101

CRIME

A Notorious Sex Offender Settles Into a Quiet Life

APR 22 Richard Laws, 49, moves from prison in April, expected to move into media limbo.

Authorities announced that a sex offender was being set free. Media outlets raced to spread the word, and even *Entertainment Weekly* was dropped off in Burlington.

Laws printed up flyers with his mug shot, warning the public. The nation's sound up efforts in a row of letters remained in Burlington City Hall.

Laws had served his maximum 23-year sentence for raping and assaulting a woman in Winooski. Upon his release, the Department of Corrections designated him a "honorably discharged, high-risk offender" — a classification reserved for only a handful of state offenders — which triggered the commencement of his parole.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Cops Drop Facebook Shaming

APR 29 Lawbreakers don't generally inspire a lot of sympathy, but when police in the Burlington and Winooski police stations started posting images of convicted suspects on their Facebook pages, it quickly became clear about a social media issue: What's appropriate? Police checks on the two law enforcement departments' practices, pointing out that suspect photos are public records — result that many media outlets publish them.

Critics questioned the public sharing of photos and could later be found chiding — whether the photos helped or definitely an Facebook. Another issue: Is it helpful, potentially harmful comments about those convicted as well as the 9 friends a felony involves?

For the first five years, visitors to the South Burlington Police Department's Facebook page were allowed to tag suspects, denigrating, welfare, patients and worse. The level of discussion soon led to that officers who were monitoring the page posted a plan for clarity and limits: "Friends."

EMERGENCE For better or worse, people who run afoul of the law in Chittenden County can count on a little more sympathy. Police in both South Burlington and Winooski have stopped randomly posting mug shots on Facebook. Sojka pulled the plug on the public pictures in early July, and Winooski did the same more recently.

"At the end of the day I felt from my moral compass that it wasn't the right thing to do," said South Burlington Police Chief Trevor Whipple, who said he was worried about the photos remaining somewhere when a defendant faced only a minor offense or was not convicted.

Winooski Police Chief Rick Shober did not return calls. But the Winooski Facebook page has been purged of posting photos, as well as much of the gawky commentary.

He formed a cellphone police hero group but didn't know how to retrieve messages from it. Laws had the friends and family and friends and because he wanted to get into new offender involvement vehicles, he wanted only to be informed, and could not have been charged based on a noncomplaint.

UP DATE Laws, 49, has been living quietly in Birne. He handled a steady job, he told *Seven Days*, but declined to give details.

Laws is still angry about the DOC's decision to publicize his release, and the resulting media whirlwind. "It's been a long, hard struggle for me over the last several months," he said. "I was totally unprepared to be thrown out like that, and they did nothing but



under my chances of success. They weren't willing to do one thing to help me to have a chance."

Birne police confirmed that Laws has entered no problems.

Laws has begun to adapt to the technological changes that he missed in prison. He uses his cellphone frequently and he can text.

Laws said he has voluntarily received mental health counseling. That, he stressed, is further proof that DOC officials "had" what they claimed that he refused to enter a lengthy sex offender treatment program.

"Does it take any sense I wouldn't do an 18-month program if I've done six months of counseling out here and will continue to do it out here?" he asked.

—MD



I HAVE PEOPLE CALL AND SAY, 'FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, IF I COME AND TURN MYSELF IN, WILL YOU PLEASE TAKE MY PICTURE OFF YOUR FACEBOOK PAGE?'

TREVOR WHIPPLE,
SOUTH BURLINGTON POLICE CHIEF

was worried about the photos remaining somewhere when a defendant faced only a minor offense or was not convicted.

Winooski Police Chief Rick Shober did not return calls. But the Winooski Facebook page has been purged of posting photos, as well as much of the gawky commentary.

Both Winooski and South Burlington continue to post images of people arrested to warrants and surveillance photos of suspects. These pictures aren't coming down, Whipple promised. They generate tips and even prompt suspects to turn themselves in.

Said Whipple: "I have people call and say, 'For heaven's sake, if I come and turn myself in, will you please take my picture off your Facebook page?'

—MME



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And Then What? ■ BY

HEALTH CARE

At Vermont Vets' Home, No Rest From Funding Challenges**MAY 06**

The Vermont Veterans' Home has been an uphill financial ground since the Great Recession. The number of patients has dropped in this veterans' nursing home that serves veterans of military service, their spouses and "gold star" parents whose last son or daughter in the line of duty it has lost, some heroic. Taking Medicaid payments has been a dilemma. Now the home had to close its doors for care and services.

Lawmakers had been considering privatizing, selling or closing the home and they learned that shutting it down could obligate the state to repay the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs \$1.5 million for recent capital investments. Privatization would take time. So the legislature passed its iteration to keep the home open—but ordered a study over in January of how to operate it sustainably.

UPDATE: The Vermont Veterans' Home is now licensed for 130 beds, not 171, which cost over \$300,000 a year.

Still, overtime is running more than \$400,000 over budget, said CEO Melinda Jackson, which is why management wants to implement a new schedule that would maintain constant staffing levels throughout the week.

This requires negotiating with the unionized workforce—which hasn't gone well. The Vermont State Employees' Association, which represents the 196



Jackie Truelove on the grounds of the Vermont Veterans' Home

full-time nursing staff, asked for a mediator in October after the two sides failed to reach agreement. Stacy Crawford, licensed practical nurse, said the schedule

that management offered would have required nurses to work five of six weekends.

Barbara King, a licensed nursing

assistant, blamed the excessive overtime on a shortage of staff. She said "They have built no buffer in at all."

—NR

BUSINESS

Vermont's Medical Marijuana Industry Is on the Move**JUN 03**

Six months ago, Vermont's low-pain medical marijuana industry, trying to navigate licensing challenges imposed by Chittenden County, operators of the Burlington dispensary were looking to open a grow facility in Milton, where some officials were skeptical of investing such a risk to members holding a permit to sell medical marijuana.

At the same time, owners of a dispensary in Franklin were looking to move to Williston, hoping to tap into the larger Chittenden County market.

The problem, meanwhile, was where to go, rules for allow dispensaries to begin offering home delivery of medical marijuana to registered patients.

UPDATE: It took some convincing, but the Milton grow facility is up and running, and Shayne Lynn, executive director of the Champlain Valley Dispensary and Southern Vermont Wellness, the company runs two of the state's four licensed dispensaries, in Burlington and Brattleboro, and is continuing to use its older growing and testing facility in South Burlington, he said.

Lynn will apparently not face competition in Chittenden County, as state officials turned down Rutland County Organics' request to move the Brattleboro dispensary to Williston. Lindsay Wills, the state's marijuana program administrator, said state officials were concerned that patients in the Rutland County area

would be left without a conveniently located source.

To that end, the dispensary recently got the green light to start home delivery — provided the Department of Public



CHAMPLAIN VALLEY DISPENSARY

VERMONT RECENTLY GOT THE GREEN LIGHT TO START HOME DELIVERY.

Safety approves their procedure, including safety precautions. Although the mobile marijuana business isn't restricted by geography, patients

have to pick — and stick with — one dispensary.

Lynn and Champlain Valley Dispensary plan to begin regular delivery service in January. "We can't wait for drivers and got over 50 applications," he reported.

—TR

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DEVELOPMENT

Is Burlington Ready to Grow ... Up?**JUN 10**

A \$500 million plan to revitalize Burlington Town Center—the Queen City's shopping mall—is aiming to move the city to the next level. The construction of two 14-story towers would require changes to the 105-foot height limit downtown. At 300 feet, they'd significantly alter Burlington's skyline (they'd also rank as the tallest buildings in Vermont) and, as a result of increasing density, begin to relieve the city's housing shortage.

Both the city council and planning commission would have to sign off on the proposal from developer Dan Stiles. In essence, that means there would have to be a vote, and that's where some city voters entered the picture.

"I think we'll vote. It would enhance the character of Burlington," said Peter Urems, director of Burlington Community and Economic Development Office. "Pretty soon it would be a disaster."

UPDATE: Since hasn't formally submitted his mall redo plan to the Burlington Development Review Board—caused, he admitted it to a public planning process.

There's been relatively little discussion about tower height in those meetings so far, but some city residents



Rendering of the mall project.

have expressed their concerns through other means, and Jane Knodell, the Progressive representative of the Burlington City Council who also serves on the mall's Development Agreement Public Advisory Committee.

The goal is for the towers to fit in with the architecture and feel of the city, while allowing for several hundred units of new housing in Burlington's dense, walkable downtown. Since and Knodell said she'd support the height increase of the public benefits of the project, such as her goals for better street connectivity,

affordable housing and a revitalized retail experience.

Some aspects of the proposal have changed already. The new parking garage will be above ground, not its original, due to cost, space and that it will be on the interior of the project's footprint view. The last up-to-date design for the project will be presented at 5:30 p.m. January 5 in the mall's lower level. The public is invited to look at posters and weigh in.

City voters will have their say at a future ballot question about

non-increment financing for mall infrastructure. "In practice it will be almost like a vote up or down on the whole project," Knodell said.

But plans for a March vote have been dropped, and it's unclear whether the question will go on the November 2016 ballot.

Since predicts it will take most of next year to get through the permitting process. If approved, he hopes to build the project in 2017 and replace the mall with a more modern, mixed-use development.

—MW

DEVELOPMENT

Colchester Officials Give Up the Buoy Battle**JUL 22**

In June, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued four permits or permission to cut off 22 buoys off the Colchester property on Lake Champlain. It's a leading cause of the purpose to create a multi-environment weaker future evolution of Burlington's housing development.

The Colchester Selectboard had unanimously approved the buoys on the grounds that they would cause off-park at Lake Champlain—possibly reducing—the benefit of private property owners.

Wanting to limit buoy usage to a pavilion, the one that had pledged to teach a way to prevent a proliferation of buoys along Colchester's 21-mile shore line, Selectmen wrote nothing Army Corps requiring removing.

UPDATE: The Army Corps did respond to town manager Dawn Thorne and Selectman Tim Mulcahy. "It was a very short meeting," Mulcahy reported. He asked whether Colchester had any reserve to influence future buoy applications. The answer: a peremptory "no."



PHOTO BY JEFFREY STILLE

buoy permits in Lake Champlain fall squarely within the Army Corps' purview. In some instances, the state Agency of Natural Resources has a say—but not always do on.

"It is futile," Mulcahy concluded. "We have no authority and don't the way it is."

In October, the selectboard voted 3-2 to drop the issue.

In early November, the Army Corps informed the town that it had received another application for buoys. This time, property owners at the Camp Edgewater Condominiums want to install nine of them to warn boaters to slow down.

The selectboard has asked the Army Corps to reject the proposal, but Selectman Marc Landry said he expects the feds will ignore its counsel. In an email, he predicted: "If this plays out as I expect, one by one, property owners will take advantage of the ability to card off [the] lake in front of their houses. They would be un-

set to."

And Then What? »

CRIME

A DCF Caseworker's Slaying Reverberates Statewide

APR. 12 The shooting came Saturday. Friday afternoon in April, six state workers were parking their cars in the parking lot below Lee's. Lee, 45, a state Department of Children and Families caseworker, was on the ground when he was shot. A woman with a self-destructing cell phone that DCF had taken from her old daughter, Police officials later identified the shooter as Judy Herring.

Herring, 50, a social worker with Washington County Sheriff's Office, had been called over to Lyndonville State Penitentiary to help Herring. Herring says she had been there before. Herring had just left and taken her bus to the bus stop across from Lee's. Lee, 45, and his wife, Vicki, 43, were in some

Herring had just left and taken her bus to the bus stop across from Lee's. Lee, 45, and his wife, Vicki, 43, were in some Herring had just left and taken her bus to the bus stop across from Lee's. Lee, 45, and his wife, Vicki, 43, were in some Herring had just left and taken her bus to the bus stop across from Lee's. Lee, 45, and his wife, Vicki, 43, were in some



Judy Herring at her trial, April 12.

UPDATE Three DCF caseworkers quit as a direct result of Lee's death, according to Commissioner Ken Schatz. In December, Gov. Peter Shumlin pledged to add 35 social workers and other staff in 2016. A major cause of

the crisis: Drug-addicted parents are neglecting their children, forcing the state to take custody of an increasing number of them.

Meanwhile, DCF began to issue threats against its workers in the wake of the shooting and has ousted 109, Schatz said. "It is of great concern," he

said. Some of those making the threats have invoked Herring's name, Schatz said. "That's the concern: in which people deserve it. And that's awful," Schatz told a legislative committee in October, *WPTE-TV* reported.

Shumlin's administration is advancing possible security changes for state offices, an issue that legislators say will be high on their agenda in January.

That same month, DCF workers will move from the Birney City Place offices, Schatz said, to the state court building just down the street, where visitors have to pass through metal detectors.

The department also plans to standardize its policies for social worker visits to clients' homes. In some circumstances, Schatz said, employees who once would have gone alone will be accompanied by another state worker and, in some cases, a law-enforcement officer.

Herring remains jailed without bail. Her case is scheduled for a status conference in Washington County Superior Court on February 24. —TH

CRIME

Randy Quaid: Stuck in Vermont, Legally

OCT. 28 How did actor Randy Quaid — of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *National Lampoon's Vacation* fame — end up in a small Vermont town? The 71-year-old movie star had been serving a 10-year sentence in California for mail-in gambling. After he was released, he moved to Vermont and started living in a cabin he had bought with squatters in their basement. He reportedly never paid shipping on an instant lottery ticket. The Quaids countered that a shadowy crew of insurance and *Vermonter* State Workers was trying to kick them out of their home.

Days later, though, Franklin County judges decided there was no legal basis for the California charges — and he was free to return the duty. The Quaids headed to Peter's father's home in Lincoln and pledged to begin anew in the quiet Addison County town. Randy even expressed interest in joining the Lincoln volunteer fire department and playing Santa Claus on the annual town Christmas parade.

UPDATE The Quaids are still in Lincoln, according to their attorney, Peter Langrock, but Randy has not joined the fire department.

"If he showed up, we would have welcomed him," said Fire Chief Dan Ghar. "But we're not going to go looking for him."

California authorities have not followed through on their threat to file paperwork in Vermont seeking to extradite the Quaids. That leaves them in legal purgatory. They are free to remain in Vermont but could potentially face arrest on the California warrants — which are still valid in other states — the second they cross the state line, Langrock said.

The couple could not be reached, but in colorful and bizarre social media posts, they have excoriated *Vermonter*. In one video, Randy grabs handfuls of leaves that he had stashed in his pants and throws them into the air while frolicking in a grass field. In another, he rails against "bully Nazis," a coalition of banks and oil companies that, Quaid says, "murder and suck us空."

Quaid ends the video by declaring Donald Trump for president, concluding that he is the only candidate not beholden to the powerful gravy.



BUSINESS

Finally Christine

David Hallquist was leading a double life when Seven Days observed the 38-year-old chief executive officer of Vermont Electric Cooperative last month. Among friends and family, Hallquist was Christine. Among colleagues and board members at the state-owned, independent utility the CEO was still operating as David.

Preparing to take the first steps in her gender transition — going to work as Christine — Hallquist reviewed her hopes and fears in a rare report about reconciling two worlds.

UPDATES, AT 7 a.m. on December 2, Christine Hallquist arrived at VEC's Newport district office and met with line workers. "There were some initial doos in the headlights looks," she said. But the transition at work has gone smoothly. "Everybody's met Christine, and they seem fine as we can be."

The company website has updated with the CEO's new name, photo and email address.

Changing her name and gender on official documents has been more complicated. The Department of Motor Vehicles initially told Hallquist she needed to change her Social Security card first. The Social Security Administration told her she needed to change her driver's license first. Penitentiary paid off, and Hallquist received an enhanced driver's license on December 16.

While she was waiting, Hallquist persuaded the DMV to put her new photo — with a wig and makeup — on her old driver's license, the one with the name "David." Identified as such, she breveted through airport security on a recent trip to Washington, D.C.

"Everybody was very polite," she said.

In Washington, Hallquist spoke at a National Conference of State Legislatures about the benefits of well-placed solar projects. It was Christine's first appearance before a national group. Although only a few people in the audience had known her as Dave, Hallquist went in worried about how she would be perceived. "I didn't notice anything different," she said.

Hallquist said she's conscious that the transition has not gone as smoothly for other transgender people. "I hear lots of stories people have to leave their jobs. I'm probably not having the same experience as others."

—ED.



CHRISTINE HALLQUIST

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Jurassic World Director Turns the Camera on a Human-Size Story

BY ETHAN DE SEPE

in an unremarkable state of a place in an unremarkable brick building in downtown Burlington, the director of the year's biggest movie (barring the possibility of *Death Stranding*) is quietly working on his next project. It's a decidedly smaller-scale film, no far-flung location shoots, an \$18 million budget and no digital cameras.

The Book of Henry, the next film from *Jurassic World* director **JAMES TREVORROW**, is significantly smaller in scope than *Jurassic World*. That Tyconsus-size summer blockbuster earned more than \$1.6 billion worldwide, stamping its way to the top of the year's box office charts. Sequels are planned.

With its comparatively modest \$10 million budget and its focus on a single family, *The Book of Henry* seems an unusual next move for Trevorrow. Yet the director said that the movie is, in many ways, a logical step for him.

The offices of Trevorrow's production company are spare and functional. Few decorations adorn the walls, and the kitchen is stocked mainly with coffee, the file bleed of the film editor



James Trevorrow, director of *The Book of Henry*, in his office (left) and a scene from the film (right).

Only the now-tried-and-true edit suites and the hammering servers give any indication of the operation under way here.

The lowkey setup seems to suit Trevorrow just fine. He's outgoing and amiable, greeting a reporter with a

friendly "Hey, man" before settling on the office's only couch.

Safety Not Guaranteed, Trevorrow's profitable 2012 indie sci-fi comedy, was made on a budget of about \$750,000; his next movie's budget was 20 times that

size. "In the same way that I felt I had to move into the future to direct *Jurassic World* in myself in 20 years, I went back and directed *(The Book of Henry)* as myself right after safety," Trevorrow said. "It was very fundamental, honest filmmaking."

The Book of Henry was originally slated to be Trevorrow's follow-up to *Safety Not Guaranteed*, but, upon landing the *Jurassic* gig, he had to bow out publicly. Though he promised he'd return to the project, the film's producers didn't believe him. "They were like, 'No, you're not. You're gonna be directing disaster movies forever,'" he said with a laugh. But after completing *Jurassic World*, Trevorrow found that Henry's producers had yet to sign a replacement, so he returned, as good as his word.

Trevorrow soon set about casting the film, choosing Naomi Watts for the lead and "Breaking Bad's" Dean Norris for the heavy Young action Jacob Tremblay and Judi Dench's character were cast in the crucial roles of Henry's character's son.

Though Trevorrow was tight-lipped about the specifics of the film's story, he said, for him, that story constitutes its chief appeal. "*(The Book of Henry)* is not a little movie," he said. "It's a much bigger story than *(Jurassic World)*. It's like a miniskirt story — that's why I'm so excited about it. It's like a fable, like a lost Bible story that we didn't know existed." The events that occur in the

Sabra Field On-Screen: A New Doc Celebrates Vermont Printmaker

BY ETHAN DE SEPE

The first contact between artist **SABRA FIELD** and filmmaker **MAUREEN PHILLIPS** was surprising but not unusual: Phillips and his family had just moved to tiny East Barre. On a spring morning in 1975, they were strolling when a dog ran onto their porch and shook their tiny human by the nose of its nose, telling it Phillips gave chase, but the dog fled like a hare.

Field, the renowned Vermont artist and owner of the dog immediately had the animal put down. Soon thereafter, when the Phillipses were away, she attacked a log of whalebones and a note of apology to their dog's ears.

"We never really talked about it," says Phillips. "In fact, even though [East Barre] is a small town of 80, we never really got to be friends."



Maureen Phillips and Sabra Field

Four decades later, with the animals long buried and grievances forgotten, the two are connected not just by friendship but by a camera lens.

Phillips' recent hourlong documentary *Sabre: The Life & Work of Printmaker Sabra Field*, which has steadily sold the rounds of film festivals and small local

screening venues. Partly a celebration of Field's work, the film also has a point to make: that her art is more complex than you might think.

Field is primarily known for her boldly colored landscapes that show their expansive power from Vermont's venerable pastoral society. Those images of rolling hills, bright red barns and wacky blue rivers have given her a lofty reputation in the printmaking field; their sales have allowed Field to make a living from her art.

Yet, as Sabre makes clear, the range and depth of her art are far more extensive than even her fans might realize. She has produced witty abstract works, a figurative series based on mythology, Indian totem poles and even several works with a political slant. In the film, these and other lesser-known aspects of Field's artistic process receive screen time equal to that of the landscapes.

Sabre's excess pays off, offering her to print work, but the liveliest scenes are those in which the artist is interviewed on screen by her son, Max. Paul wasn't a member of the

family are as epic as anything that can happen with people and dinosaurs."

After a two-week shoot in the New York City suburbs, the film's production wrapped in November, after which Trevorrow joined his two subplots in Burlington. They'd been receiving footage from the shoot on stage and had created an assembly (a first draft) by the time the director served for a 10-week edit session. "In a lot of ways, it's been a more challenging edit [than that of *Jurassic World*], and that's why I want to do it," he said. "If you have a movie that's as successful as *Jurassic World*, you can rest on those laurels for a while. I am continuing my tradition of attempted career suicide at every turn. One of these days, I'm going to succeed."

Trevorrow was quipping about his unusual career path of moving directly from indie production to mega production. He's aware of the potentially misleading message that豪ously sounds like prospective filmmakers: "It suggests that you can be standing in a 7-Eleven and someone will buy you on the shoulder and say, 'They're going to direct *Jurassic World*,'" he said. "When, in reality, I was fating miserably for a

decade, with periodic successes that allowed me to continue."

Joking aside, Trevorrow's most famous — and most unassuring — film director seems to have broken that pattern. In six or eight months, he and his

team will shoot their selves to more to London, where he'll direct an another film than *Star Wars: Episode IX*. "I'm going to Dagonabul," where Trevorrow put it, invoking the name of a planet in the *Star Wars* universe.

Though that generic title, effects-heavy production might seem like yet another unusual step for Trevorrow after *The Book of Henry*, he pointed out that the two films are not all that dissimilar. *Like The Book of Henry*, he said, "My next movie is a family drama. It's a large-scale family drama set to space, but it's still a family drama ... *Star Wars* is the only kind of movie where somebody can just yell, 'Nooooooo!' and you're with it. So to do a movie that gets to that level of pure, human-hearted-pain out emotion — I felt like that was the right thing to do."

Colin Trevorrow

I AM CONTINUING MY TRADITION OF ATTEMPTED CAREER SUICIDE AT EVERY TURN.

COLIN TREVORROW

Traversing was quipping about his unusual career path of moving directly from indie production to mega production. He's aware of the potentially misleading message that豪ously sounds like prospective filmmakers: "It suggests that you can be standing in a 7-Eleven and someone will buy you on the shoulder and say, 'They're going to direct *Jurassic World*,'" he said. "When, in reality, I was fating miserably for a

film's now but, as Phillips observes, his presence enabled Field to relax and open up, revealing aspects of her personality — such as the grief that she suffered from the death of her husband and son — that are largely unknown even to her advisors. The film is true to its title. It really is about her life and her work.

It's no surprise that Phillips, 66, a longtime admirer of Field's art, was able find a compelling story in her career. The writer of some 50 screenplays for film and television (including 1980's Stephen King adaptation *Christine*), he has long held the position of professor of film and media studies at his alma mater, Dartmouth College. In making *Sabrina*, Phillips stepped behind the camera for the first time since directing the 1992 comedy *There Goes the Neighborhood*.

"When you write a fictional script," he says, "you're making things happen the way you want them to happen. [For

IT'S AN HONOR, BUT A BIG RISK, TOO.

SABRA FIELD

Phillips] I let the material talk to me. Even when Sabra said, 'What are you going to have?' I really needed something until the material started telling me where to go with it."

"I kind of listened out on screenwriting," Phillips adds. "After writing *Sabrina*, I thought I didn't have anything else to write. Filmmaking is my first love, so I've gotten back into that."

Apparently he's done it well, as Sabra has earned local accolades, pulling in the audience favorite award in the 2015 VERNON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL Vermont Filmmakers' Showcase category and earning a nomination for best feature at the 2015 HANOVER RIVER FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL. Next up: a January 26 screening at VERA GALLERY AND GIFT CENTER in Lebanon, N.H. Though Phillips plans to continue to screen the film in the area, he's now concentrating on DVD

SABRA FIELD/SHOOTING STUDIO

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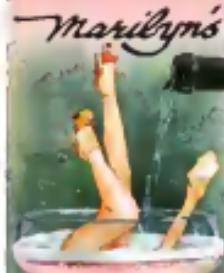
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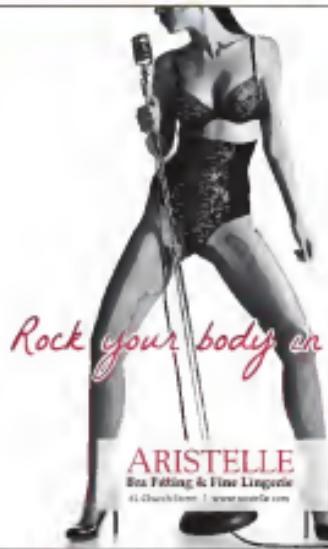


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Vermont Trekkies Will Launch Web-Based TV Series 'Star Trek Anthology'

BY KEN PICARD

Seven Days' September 9 story "Busting There" covered the launch of *Trekkerdope*, a first-ever "Star Trek" convention held in Ticonderoga, NY. The three-day event, hosted in the town's Retro Film Studios, was the brainchild of James Cowley, a 48-year-old Ticonderoga native and diehard Trekkie.

Over the past decade, Cowley narrated the entire film set of the 1986 *Enterprise* in meticulous detail, using blueprints from the original 1960s TV series. He and his friends then began filming new made-for-quality episodes of their homage to the series — "Star Trek: New Voyages" — featuring such classic characters as Captain Kirk, Mr. Spock and Dr. McCoy. Those episodes, in which some of the original cast members have appeared, are posted online for free viewing.

After that article appeared, we learned that some Vermont Trekkies are getting in on the act. They're preparing to shoot their own "Star Trek" episode,



utilizing Cowley's sets for their production. **JAMES BRYANT**, a 55-year-old retired set designer from Highlands Springs, is the chief executive producer and creator of "Star Trek Anthology,"

a planned collection of three separate series based on the "Star Trek" universe created by the show's founder, Gene Roddenberry.

The first series, titled "Starship

"Challenge," features a character who appeared in the 1966 "Star Trek" pilot, "The Cage," Captain J.M. Colt. In "Starship Challenge," Colt is grown up and commands his own starship. She's played by Bryant's wife, **JUDY BALKINDER BRYANT**, who bears an uncanny resemblance to actress Laurel Gunderson, who portrayed

Colt in '66.

The second series, titled "Methus," revolves around a family that operates a freighter in the outer fringes of the Galaxy. It trap explores the story to come on a father and his two kids, both of whom are autistic. Portraying them are the Bryants' 17-year-old son, who plays a high-functioning computer geek, and 16-year-old daughter, who pilots the ship. Both are themselves on the autism spectrum.

The third series, titled "Assignment Earth," based on the final episode of "Star Trek's" second season, it involves time travelers and intergalactic agents.

Neither of the Bryants are newcomers

HIPPIE INVASION: WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT '70S SHOW?

In March and April of this year, the **VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY** in Barre hosted a series of community forums on the influence of 1970s counterculture on the state — and vice versa. Those gatherings, which Kevin J. Kelley wrote about in March, marked the early stages of a VHS research project called "1970s counterculture and its Lasting Influence," funded in part through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

As VTHS comes to a close, VHS curator **JOE COLE** says the project is moving along. Through surveys that collected and processed, is taking a little longer than anticipated. Through the efforts of county and public programs, co-curator **ANDREA BOSTICK** and her colleagues have been gathered as far west as the subjects are willing — who came to Vermont as young adults and are now ready to talk about something for interviewers' sakes. "It has just used the snowball method," Cole says. "We never know where it's going."

One surprising discovery she notes is the relationship between the influx of liberally minded youth in Vermont and

advances in community health care. Cole runs a loose operation called the Free Vermont Traveling Medicine Show, which evolved into the Burlington Free Peoples Clinic — and eventually into the Community Health Centers of Burlington. She also maintains the Home Health Handbook, a collection of basic health care information that got a "pretty good" review in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Not all the riches the VHS has turned up are positive. Cole references the "hippie scare" in the spring of 1970, an outburst caused in large part by a newspaper article that claimed 10,000 young people had come to take over a summer camp. The Earth People in New Mexico was perhaps the most notorious example of it, called "Hippie invasion."

The 35 acres near the Canadian border were purchased by a California insurance agent in '71 and leased as a free space without owners or rules — what Cole refers to as "essentially a free and unfettered" situation. State archives show that some are still with evidence of Vermonters' anxiety about their changing home. Cole points to a "scrapbook" folder of letters to then-powerer Deane C. Davis, which plead for or demand reprieve. Part



the threat of seemingly "progressive" newcomers. One Grafton resident handwritten note advises: "Any intelligent person can tell by their looks that this bunch are not Vermonters and that they are communists."

Finding people to speak about negative experiences of Vermonters

counterculture has been a challenge, however. Cole says that while she has found indications of such reactions on surveys, the respondents remained anonymous.

"Everybody has their own story, that's the other thing is finding out," says Cole. "While such movements in Vermont

theatrical productions. For years, they owned and operated a successful theater company in St. Lucie, Fla., called Big Deer Productions. Jones-Beay also spent more than 20 years designing sets and props for Disney and Universal, and has worked as a set designer for Vermont's *LINE THEATER COMPANY*.

Beay says that meeting Cowley was "blissful." About five years ago, Beay was helping some fellow Trekkies rebuild another fan-based "Star Trek" set in Oklahoma City. Most fan-based productions, like Cowley's and Beay's, are accomplished using volunteers, donated materials and cash gifts. When the Oklahoma group passed an online request for material to make uniforms, Cowley offered to donate costume fabric he'd acquired from the original TV series. They drove from Vermont to New York to pick it up.

Beay notes, arriving at Cowley's studio where the latter's crew was shooting pickup shots that required Klingon makeup. When Cowley's makeup artist "pulled a no-show," Beay, who was familiar with the makeup, offered to help — then spent the rest of the afternoon making Klingon facepaints.

"I've been playing with Jones ever since," Beay says. "We have a ball."

An "Star Trek Anthology" began filming in April. Beay says he's still looking for collaborators, including a director of photography, production assistants and a few good makeup artists. A wealthy

beauty factor or two would be helpful, too," he adds. ☐

Contact: kro@sevendayart.com

INFO

To volunteer or donate funds or supplies toward upcoming productions of "Star Trek Anthology," visit www.star-trek-anthology.com

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Sabra Field On-Screen

roles and securing the film's broadcast on Vermont PBS.

Field has achieved success and acclaim with her art, but, as she observes in an email to Seven Days, being the subject of a documentary is another kind of honor, and one that has elicited a wide range of emotions in her.

"Having a film made is a big deal, for sure," she writes, "but it makes the old fears of not being good enough — the impostor blues... It's an honor, but a big risk, too. Every time one stick of anchovy above the treble, one raw radio! ☺"

Contact: efh@sevendayart.com

RACHEL ELIZABETH JONES

Contact: rae@sevendayart.com

INFO

Death, The Life & Work of Peter Hujar (Zadie Xaier-David, directed by Bill Phillips, www.zadie.com, \$20, screening on Thursday, January 16, 4 p.m., at ASA Gallery and Art Center, 1000 N.W. 5th St., www.asa-gallery.org)

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INFO

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round. It was displayed at the planBTV South End draft plan release party at REDACTED on June 11.

Stanley prompted the kids to contemplate what they liked about their neighborhood and what they would like to see change. "They wanted homes for the homeless and tree houses," says the artist. But most of all, "they wanted an outdoor swimming pool!"

If you look closely at the paper-plastered canisters now hanging outside *Arribalzaga*, miraculously intact after a exposure to the notes written I stashed them. One Another "Soft case."

MONROE SMITH and JERONIMO RATTED to-law income South End residents for their project. Through questionnaires and in person interviews, the pair collected ideas regarding the future of the South End from residents of Decker Town, Wharf Lane and Robbin Hill Apartments. They represented the responses in a format that was presented during a community workshop in February, also at ArtRiot. Transportation was a key issue, Berger says, "specifically that the condition of the road and sidewalks makes it hard to move around."

In May Sayles and Berger used the stories they collected in an evening of performance art featuring multiple artists at the Howard.
By Sean Conroy

Other grant recipients attempted to engage an even broader audience. Glass artist **THOMAS KELLER** received funding for three different projects, two of them collaborations with **STATE FAIR CIRCUS** and **SOFT BAND**. The artist's first creation was a work in progress and partly titled "Seeds for **SEAD**" (an acronym for the South End Arts District). Goron, the number responsible for the colorful landscape that greets City Market shop pass, had her signature boulders to three wooden tree cutouts. These were placed along First Street during the **South End Grand Staircase**.

Wooden "seeds" scattered on the ground yielded no response to water.

responses to one of two prompts — "What is about the South that makes you smile?" and "What about the South that would you like to see change?" Participants could then return the seeds (with their answer) to one of the trees. Surveyors asking similar questions were conducted at least once throughout the crowd, according to Katz. "Confused," there were "hundreds of responses," she says, "more of them on paper than on the wooden seeds."

opinions and ideas regarding the future of the South's South and requested my they were under the impression that this information would be incorporated in the plan. BTV South had draft plan. However, Katz says the goal was to build awareness and engagement, not to gather data. All of the networks, she adds, were allied with the consulting team from Boston-based Connex, which the city hired in fall 2015 to facilitate public participation in the plan. BTV

ICA also funded a documentation of the artist's projects. **ARTISTS' UNION** has been compiling video footages this year and is building a website to showcase the work. "It'll be a good representation of all the pluralistic practices that happen here," says Katz.

SKIN ALLIANCE will collaborate with other designers and artists "to develop a vision of a distinct, multifaceted enterprise district whose form and public spaces express the distinctive culture of the artists and businesses who inhabit it," according to a press release.

The description is a wonderful, but summarizing an entire season of Burlington is no small task. Compalk and Alvarez will develop their design ideas over the winter and early spring. Meanwhile, interested citizens can find out more about the artists' projects and monitor the progress of *playinTV* on the city's website www.burlingtonvt.org.



CALLING ALL VOICES

Editorial: The importance of the 'soft' dimension

REENVISIONING
AN ENTIRE SECTION
OF BURLINGTON
IS NO SMALL
TASK.

SEHEN ALMAGRO will collaborate with other designers and artists "to develop a vision of a denser, multi-layered antropocene district whose form and public spaces express the phloemcentric culture of the artists and businesses who inhabit it," according to Cossell.

The description is a wonderful, but summarizing an entire season of Burlington is no small task. Compalk and Alvarez will develop their design ideas over the winter and early spring. Meanwhile, interested citizens can find out more about the artists' projects and monitor the progress of *playTV* on the city's website www.burlingtonvt.gov.

1450

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802-86-FLYNN | 153 Main St., Burlington

Dear Cecil,

If humans were to die out tomorrow, how long would it take for nature to take over and overgrow most traces of our existence? After, like, 10,000 years, would you have to undertake an archaeological dig to find evidence of us, or would parts of major cities still be standing and distinguishable?

Jim Huff



Why not take it a step further: What if humans never existed at all? As the Republican primary race drags on, I can't say it's not an alterate proposition, and — helpfully — one that was breached this year by researchers of Drexel's Drexel University. They came to the fairly obvious conclusion that, sans Homo sapiens, the rest of the world's fauna would be a hell of a lot better off — so much so that more continents would resemble Africa in the diversity of their mammal populations. In a human-free world, the authors imagine, not only wildebeest and bears but elephants and rhinos would right now be roaming northern Europe.

Alas, we have to work with the facts we've got, namely (1) We exist as a species, and (2) in a world we might not — whether by disease or nuclear winter, or because we've decided this rock for one that's not yet totally buried. For the sake of your question, though, let's assume

we simply vanished — a kind of noncommittal extinction.

As it happens, such a scenario was entertained by the journalist Alvin Weisstein in his 2007 book *The World Without Us*. Weisstein's scenario was apparently adequate enough that it featured not one but two documentary franchises: the History Channel series "Life After People" and National Geographic Channel's *Afghanistan: Population Zero*. Granted, the latter title carries a real whiff of basic cable chauvinism, but Weisstein's no slouch. Working from interviews with historians, structural engineers, art conservators, et al., he credibly predicts what might happen in cities and less-populated areas, as well as at sites whose abandonment would lead to notably dramatic results — think oil refineries and nuclear reactors.

A particularly vivid passage gives the play-by-play to New York City: How quickly would urban infrastructure go to shiz in a repeat scenario? Very

very quickly. "After we're gone, nature reverts for our safety: mechanical superiority arrives waterborne," Weisstein writes. In New York's case, it comes down below: With no one to operate the pumps that keep water out of the subway tunnels, the system finds itself inundated as "no more than a couple of days" (*Surveillance* fondly gave us a taste of what that might look like). As the water rises toward ground level, it eats away at the soil, within 20 years the streets collapse, becoming rivers. Pipes burst, gas lines ignite — your standard post-apocalyptic hell'scape. Within 50 years, their foundations scoured out by water, skyscrapers start to falter and crumble. It's another few centuries before trees really re-colonize the place. (Interestingly, the animals that don't make it are ones that adapted too well to human dominance, including several species failed for their supposed intolerance: cockroaches, which can handle northern winters without heating and mice, which can't replace

the calorie value of a million tons of garbage.)

But we're thinking on a bigger scale than this, Jim. Here are the headlines:

- Dholes (big) Earth orbits stays there for more than a century

- Suspension bridges collapse within 300 years; either, before design might hold up for a millennium.

- In cities like New York, the most durable structures will be stone walls, like those of St. Paul's Church; Weisstein sees them lasting "the assessed of years."

- Meanwhile, the estimated erosion rate at Mount Rainier is just one inch per 10,000 years. Even that, Weisstein extrapolates that we can expect parts of it to remain recognizable for about 12 million years.

- In 10,000 years, then, a visitor surveying the Earth's surface will find it largely reforested, with stone ruins here and there indicating the former presence of humans like, say, King 'I'll those are gone, too! Haw's where Weisstein and another scientist who's written on the subject — astrophysicist Mayank Vaid, of India's Tata Institute of Fundamental Research — dream: Yakkas

suggests that coarse and needful building materials will hang on "for tens of thousands of years," while Wesman figures whatever's still standing in 20,000 or so years will be erased by another ice age.

What's left then? PVC pipes and glass remains under the ice, ground to a powder. Wiring and plumbing, which show up as subterranean metal deposits. Heavy metals and nuclear materials like uranium and plutonium, radium, whose half-lives only begin at 24,000 years. You've heard of the Anthropocene, I presume — the name geologists have proposed giving to our current geological epoch, so profoundly affected by humans. Epochs are characterized by identifiable shifts in the Earth's strata; the aforementioned is all the stuff that archaeologists will find as evidence of us, millions of years in the future, just as today's geologists find evidence of post-glaciation. Of course, the likelihood of a coming ice age looks even dimmer now than it did when Weisstein wrote his book. We're not doing such a hot job keeping the atmosphere cool. But that's an existential problem for another day.

INFO

In these mounting post-new year's resolutions, Cecil Adams can deliver the Straight Dope on any topic. Send questions to Cecil@straightdope.com or write to c/o Chicago Reader, 350 N. Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60654.

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WTF?

Questions That Went by the Wayside

We get a lot of questions from inquiring minds, our six readers, every year. This column runs every other week, so that gives us just 36 opportunities to answer them. (Or 25, given that we're squandering this one on not answering any.) Of course, we lean toward questions that have a retrievable answer — or an elusive one for which the search itself is entertainment. We generally ignore questions to which we have already responded.

Some questions we have no business answering. We are not, for example, able to offer a medical opinion on that weird rash, or to investigate your alleged food poisoning at a local salad bar. We shy away from questions of a religious or mystical nature.

That leaves the *WTF* questions that have no example, no more than opinion than fact, or to which there isn't necessarily a single right answer. In this last column of 2015, we the right will give you a sampling of these, conveniently grouped in two popular categories.

If anyone has a clue, do let us know. Maaanface, Happy New Year, and happy year questions coming!

Yo, Vermont?

WTF is up with [Garrett] Graff and his supposed run for lieutenant governor? From my seat, it sure looks like someone screwed the poach big time in advising him about the run. Even with his familial roots in Vermont, he still comes off as an Ivy League, leg-labour, following insider who wants to outperform his way into a major role in state government?

What's up with the Lamoille Valley Ford guy who's always calling in his radio spots on what sounds like his iPhone? — He might have the largest radio mouth up in the state, but the audience does always sound like he's calling in from a third-world country?

I'm a native Vermonter (Burlington), and I lived in Burlington for 22 years. Upon moving to Burlington from Salt Lake City in 1992, I immediately noticed a drop in the temperature.简直是wise. I've had this conversation with others who have moved here both from in-state and out, that people who live in Burlington seem quite cold and snobbish and cliquey.

Over this last winter I moved to the Mad River Valley area, and the people here are very friendly. I don't think it's just a matter of small towns versus large towns, because they talked to other people from large cities, and they feel the obligation upon moving here, too. I also don't think it's just native Vermonters or native Vermonter acting this way. What gives? Is Burlington some sort of weird, snobbish island part of the country?



“Why isn’t the state closed Huntington Gorge is swimmin, now that so many people have died there? Seems to me the gorge rules that meets the legal definition of ‘attractive nuisance.’”

“The State of Vermont wants you to replace faded license plates because they are fading, where the numbers are. But what I understand is, you have to pay them if the plate is not a special or low number and you prefer the same number. *WTF?* They messed up, why should we pay it all? It is their error. Make the plate supplier pick up the tab.”

“I often hear neighbors, friends and Burlingtonians in general bemoaning and having about how unsafe it is to have a tree near their house — the thought being that if it fell on the house, it would hurt or possibly kill someone. Usually when someone is cutting down an otherwise healthy tree, ‘safety’ is the excuse they use. *WTF?* how many people have actually been killed by trees in Vermont? Or injured? More specifically, how many people have been killed or injured in their own homes by a tree?”

“A few years back, around 2010-11 when fuel and diesel prices spiked, my trash hauler added a ‘fuel service charge’ to my bill. At the time it made sense, as everyone could see that the cost of fuel was driving upward at a rapid pace, and trash hauling obviously uses lots of fuel. But since then, fuel prices (including

gasoline) have fallen to their lowest levels in a decade. Yet the ‘fuel service charge’ remains, and my trash hauler refuses to remove the add-on. *WTF?*”

“I live in Waterbury, and I fail to understand why it is necessary to have up to five or six street patrol cars with lights on all day, sitting on their asses at different locations. The warrantee locations have a supermarket. It feels like we as drivers are in kindergarten, and we have to be watched. What a waste. Thank you.”

“What’s up with the diamonds painted on the doors of lots of fire trucks out in Jenicho and Underhill?”

“How is it possible that Vermont only has one area code — our beloved 802? *WTF?* Are there any other states with just one area code? How do they determine how many area codes are needed in a state or area? And, perhaps most pressing: Will there ever come a day when Vermont has to add a new area code? *Guyp?*”

More From the Road

“Right by Herkis’ Ford on Shelburne Road, there is a 40-miles-per-hour sign, followed by a sign about 10 yards away stating that traffic lights sync up at 30 miles per hour. What’s up with that?”

“*WTF* is up with the white and purple Buabas 2000 bus seen around Essex [0] has the Deathly Hallows symbol on the back and other Harry Potter references” [Note: The writer is presumably referring to *Snuffles 2000*, Harry’s riding broomstick. We tried to track down that vehicle, to no avail.]

“Why are there a bunch of ‘distance to’ signs between White River Junction and Montpelier giving the distance to both Montpelier and Barre — which are basically next to each other — and the distance to Barresburg is not given? I mean, Montpelier is the capital, but why not Montpelier and *BTW*?”

“Picture a four-way (or more) intersection where you are facing oncoming traffic. You might see four dedicated left- (and right-) hand turn lanes, but when the signal turns, you only have a green light, no arrows. But the traffic in the oncoming direction is being held by a red light! How are you to know, unless you are familiar with the intersection? Two prominent examples are the Main Street/Pearl Street intersection at Town Center to Essex Junction and the Route 15/Townes Road intersection at Essex Center.”

[From last winter] “Why does it seem that Interstate 89 and many of the roads in Vermont are often in such bad shape in the winter? Don’t we know when it’s gonna snow up here? I’ve heard tons of people say that when they cross the border into Vermont, an any number of roads, the condition instantly get worse. I’ve noticed this myself.” ☺

Contact pamelap@vermont.gov

INFO

Got a weird or mostly curious issue? Something? Send your burning question to edit@vermontmag.com

Name Game 2015

Monikers that fit the bearer: Are they coincidences or self-fulfilling prophecies?

BY KEN PICARD

By now, most of us readers are familiar with the phenomenon of — if not the name for — aptronyms: surnames that seem uncannily suited to their bearers' professions, pursuits or extracurricular activities. Collecting them over 12 months of news and listing them in *Seven Days'* year-end issue has been a tradition for the past eight years.

None of this year's examples could beat the 2014 aptronym of the year, however: the 63-year-old Canadian man arrested for apparently flailing visitors in Mooney's Bay Park in Ottawa. Still, we can report that on

March 25 of this year, police popped 53-year-old Dennis Gossom's box of Graham, Ore., far-roasting, naked, in the vicinity of Tickle Creek.

2015 offered some other potential winners. On February 28, mass murderer, a 29-year-old from Danvers, Va., crashed his car into a house in Rupert while fleeing a state trooper who had tried to pull him over for speeding. According to police, Basiling drove through an intersection and struck a fence before hitting the house and barely missing the homeowner sitting inside.

And then there is *camerawoman*. The 40-year-old East Coast wench was convicted in September on two misdemeanor counts of financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult. Goss was charged with spending more than \$40,000 of the person's income and savings for her own personal benefit. Gross misconduct, indeed.

In a year when the country's prodigious stockpile of firearms seemed to make headlines daily, this year's winning aptronym belongs to a canine retriever. The chocolate Labradore retriever in North Wilton, Ind., shot its owner, Allie Carter, in the foot by stepping on her 12-gauge shotgun during an October hunting trip.

The aptronym round-up of 2015 include:



DEVONWEISS Master stone wall builder in Scarborough.

EMERSON Vendor and sponsor entered for the Emerald Cup, a competition held annually in northern California among outdoor medical marijuana growers.

ANUM KUMAR Vergennes veterinarian.

ROBERTUS U.S. Census Bureau employee who compiles election statistics.

ROBINA FARMER Pesticide toxicologist for the Monsanto Company in St. Louis, Mo.

SCHEPERS Master sommelier and ambassador of natural beverage programs at San Francisco-based Kempten Hatch & Restaurant.

SAMANTHA RUMM Music teacher at Union Elementary School in Montpelier.

SHAHAB RAHMANI Drug abuse researcher at the University of Kentucky.

JAMES CIRINO Urban landscape architect who designed Manhattan's High Line and Freshkills Park on Staten Island.

She shares.



ANTI-APTRONYMS

ADRIENNE BATES Twenty-eight-year-old Burlington man arrested on April 23 for an unannounced inspection of a library.

REBECCA BARNARD Former Vermont attorney general November 2010 after proxy shareholders, including Burlington, voted to designate her a mutual cause of interest.

FRASER LAMB Thirteen-year-old Albany man arrested by a Vermont state police trooper for violating fire safety laws or court-ordered conditions whenever in penitentiary custody.

KERIN KIRKWOOD Thirty-three-year-old South Burlington man in his 19th offense, 12, charged with an attempt to commit the crime of false history. Kirkwood was later taken into custody for possession of drugs while under the influence of drugs.

BLAKE STREET Twenty-one-year-old Burlington man arrested on Aug. 20 after police say he punched a family member several times then struck the individual with a tool and it landed in a

ANNE GREEN Certification specialist for Vermont Organic Farmers

SANTHIA RABIN Organizer for the Satish Temple's Orange County, Fla., chapter, which tried to hand out Bibles to students. The man prompted an Orlando school district to ban the distribution of religious materials from all outside organizations.

ROBERT CRIMMINS Burlington, Ont., truck driver who on July 6 had his tractor-trailer truck filled with cornmeal at VT Route 76 and leave HJ's Road in Shelburne.

BOB FEATHERSTON Director of the plane-punk bandage, who died in June at the age of 79.

JASON BAER Vice president of sales and marketing at Vermont Teddy Bear in Shelburne.

THOMAS RABIN Nineteen-year-old Madison, N.J., man charged with assault after he beat up someone for taking the last breakfast sausage in the house. As an article in USA Today aptly noted, "It was not clear how the two men were linked."

SUSAN HIGG Director of the leading education center at King Arthur Flour in Norwich.

TOMA PRICE Liquor purchasing and warehouse chief for the Vermont Department of Liquor Control.

SHYLIA FALK Director of customer service at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont.

IAN RUGG Founder of the Whistley Fall Gutter League at Champlain Lakes (also Seven Days' music editor).

ELA MULLEN Shulburne great-grandmother and international track-and-field star who holds numerous world records in her age category. She is 81.

MARGARET RUMSEY Conservation biologist with Audubon Vermont.

JOHANNES BOLDHAMMER Bike store manager, Green Mountain Bikes for Humanity.

BLAKE PRICE Founder and CEO of Seattle-based Gravity Payments, a business credit-card processing service. In April, Price took a 90 percent pay cut to raise the salaries of all his employees to at least \$70,000 per year. Business is now booming.

REV. JAMES WILSON Nicols chaplain at the maximum-security Waypoint Correctional Institution in Waypoint, Wis.

SHAYLA SPARKS Nineteen-year-old Poultney man arrested on March 10 in Rockingham for trafficking approximately 660 kilograms of heroin worth an estimated \$12,000.

NATHAN BROWN Twenty-six-year-old St. Albans man arrested on February 5 for possession of stolen property.

DAVE JOY Organizer for OneEarth Burlington's Organic Medication group.

ROBERT PARSONS Former parson of St. Cecilia Parish on Bassbridge Island, Wash.

ALICE HILDEBRAND Creator of the purportedly nefarious *The Big Who Came Back From Heaven*, who later confessed that he'd made up the entire story.

WILLIAMSON Burlington man arrested late last year on 10 felony counts of promoting child pornography. (S)

Contact: kirby@vtdigger.org

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Life Stories

Remembering Vermonters who died in 2015

BY SEVEN DAYS STAFF

When former lieutenant governor Barbara Smith died on November 2, every major media outlet in Vermont — and the nation — noted her passing. Leopoldine University of Vermont debate director Alfred "Tunie" Steiner, who died in December, was memorialized on State Street and in the *Free Press*. Chef and restaurateur Michel Hebeuf's death spawned numerous articles and commentaries documenting his culinary legacy — including one just a few weeks ago in *Seven Days*.

But most of the thousands of Vermonters who died this year are memorialized by a smaller circle of friends and family. Notices of their deaths often appear only in obituaries, which heralds fascinating lives and medicines want to know more about them.

For our last issue of the year, *Seven Days* chose seven of these individuals to profile — because of how they lived or because of how they died. A professor, a poet, an activist, a biker, a flapper — all of these people contributed in various ways to the rich cultural and civic fabric of this state, and left an indelible mark on the lives ones left behind.

In sharing their stories, we aim to honor the memories of these who died, and to deepen readers' understanding of the diverse and splendid array of people who call Vermont home. ☺

"The woods were his temple"

Donald Hovey Hill, 1927-2015

Donald Hovey Hill of St. Albans was a "man of letters," though not in the traditional sense of the term. For 40 years, he owned and operated North Country Press, a small commercial print shop in St. Albans that introduced him to almost everyone in the community. Hill, who died New Year's Day at 82, was also a poet whose verses were often inspired by and written during his many outings in the Green Mountains.

But his most enduring letters may be those he wrote on signs along the Long Trail. A lifelong hiker and founder of the Green Mountain Club's Northern Franklin chapter, Hill hiked the trail from end to end. He also served his own slingshot bags, booties, vests and parkas as a fix to affine sewing machines, and even crafted his own seats for padding blazes and clearing trails while he walked.

As his son, Christopher, put it, "He was the finest putter I've ever seen."

HE WAS
THE FINEST
PUTTER I'VE
EVER SEEN.

CHRISTOPHER HILL

Service in World War II, he attended Champlain College before studying art, painting and typesetting at the Royal Institute of Technology.

Haley and Don married in 1952, after his first wife, Josephine "Jo" Dodge, died in a tragic bicycling accident in 1951. Haley described Hill as a "renaissance man" with diverse interests and abilities.

He sang baritone with the Champlain Orchestra and the Club Musicares.

He was a talented dinner, an and bridge, and lover of piano, organ and classic oil paint.

He was also a woodworker, antique car buff and map collector, and could write laughly poems by hand, especially those of Robert Frost.

"Even up to the very end, he was still memorizing something, writing something, reading something, listening to something," says Haley.

After Hill sold videotape store Bobbs Fleck and Jane Williams in a 2008 documentary, he formally got out hiking after taking Christopher for a Friday evening in 2015. Though the two spent a miserable rain-soaked night in a shelter seeking of cover, "I got the [long] backpack there, and my son did, too," he says in



the other. Hill joined the GMC after the trip and remained an active member until he died, maintaining trail logs, creating signs and marking trails.

Hill also told hikers where to "go" in another sense. Anyone who's ever sought relief along the Long Trail was Hill's date of guidance for the many outbreaks he experienced. He remembers well his Long Trail contributions that, in 1998, the GMC dedicated the Sarge Lodge Gap near Ripton to his honor. As Christopher recalls, "It was one of the only times I ever saw my father speechless."

Clearly, though Hill enjoyed the company of others, he also relished being alone, often leaving before dawn and returning after dark. Once, he slept outdoors in monsoons-degree weather — an extreme athlete before the expression existed.

In 1969, a sun-fatal accident in the woods severely crushed Hill's biking abilities. While he was riding trailer behind him, a widow mender — a tree top ar larch that drops when a tree is felled — crushed three of his vertebrae and severely bruised his legs.

Still, Hill remained undaunted. Unable to bike as much, he took up boating. He even built his own kayak, and

osoe, then paddled Lake Champlain end to end.

Hill was eventually diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis. Though his wife's kidneys with the condition is typically short, Hill lived another 20 years before it finally robbed him of his life.

At Hill's memorial service last January, Emerene Lyon, publisher of the *St. Albans Messenger*, remembered his longtime friend and neighbor as a man gifted with an economy of words and power of persuasion. As Lyon put it, Hill "had the enviable ability to write a letter to the editor and say 20 words what I could not say in 10 times the space."

Yet Hill also learned more than he spoke, Lyon added, and revisited in narrative past solitude.

"The woods were his temple," Lyon added. "He sought a life with meaning, something not measured in acres. I know few who could be any less materialistic than Don. He believed that in ways that showed a strong mind and an indomitable spirit. He managed to do this through his last breath."

Hill died that last October eight roles from where he was born — at the right house put it, a short walk home.

KEN PICARD

"She was just straight up out there"

Sondra Ellice Solomons, 1948-2016

Sondra Solomons stood out. Visually, it was impossible for her not to — she was a black woman in one of the whitest states in the nation, and she had a rare genetic disorder called neurofibromatosis that covered her body in tumors.

But Solomons, an accomplished scholar, left an impression on people far other reasons. Rather than ignore people's reactions to her, she studied them. She had a PhD in psychology and, as a professor at the University of Vermont, but she often focused her research on people who possessed what she referred to as "physical distinction."

Some of her papers addressed people like her — "visually distinct" women from ethnic minority groups like she spent years — and, with a colleague, received more than \$3 million in grant funding — researching the impacts of stigmas on HIV-positive people in rural areas. She studied how stigmatized people drew conclusions about the social worth of people with disabilities. And she examined how stigmas affect the self-esteem of bereavement survivors.

The list goes on. When her sister, Fredericks, was cleaning out Solomons's books in Chichester, she found "theses and reams of papers" which included interviews with people whose "differences" ranged from amputations to albinism.

According to Solomons's colleague, Larry Radiger, she didn't just study stigma — she advocated for those who

lived it. "She was devoted to making UVM as good as can be," recalls Radiger, a senior lecturer of psychological science who first met Solomons when they were both graduate students at UVM.

Among other posts, she chaired the committee that reviews the university's diversity curriculum, and she directed the Full Institute on Racism, Microaggressions, Bias and Oppression. Solomons also wrote out of her way to mentor students of color and students with disabilities.

She often extended beyond the university, too — she served on the board of the Vermont People With AIDS Coalition and led the state chapter of the Children's Tumor Foundation.

Describing her as a "tiny, leg person" — Solomons was 4-foot-tall — Radiger also mentions that she "dressed like a million bucks."

"She had a tremendous amount of grace and grace," recalls Jill Atchick, who met Solomons through Buddies mediation, which Solomons practiced for roughly 30 years.

Born in the Bronx River House — also known as the Projects — to Episcopal Protestant parents from the Virgin Islands, Solomons wasn't always so comfortable in her own skin.

Fredericks, who is five years younger,

said they both attended large New York public schools, and she remembers her older sister as quiet and reserved — a "remarkably smart" introvert who threw herself into her schoolwork. "She suffered early on the way she going to fly by on looks and a cute personality."

The tumors caused by Solomons's neurofibromatosis started to proliferate around puberty. "She always wore long-sleeved blouses. It didn't matter how hot it was, she really felt it was her burden to protect the world from her 'difference.'

Fredericks recalls it around the same age, they moved to Rensselaer — at that time in about entirely white community.

The tumors increased as Solomons got older, but during her 40s, she began to overcome her shyness, Fredericks says, noting, "Something changed, remarkably" — eventually, "she was just straight up out there."

After graduating from Long Island University, Solomons got a job as a lab assistant in New York, studying liver disease. She disliked being sequestered in the lab, according to Fredericks, and her desire to be around people ultimately led her back to school to study psychology. After getting a master's from New York University, she came to Burlington to complete her PhD at UVM.



Solomons remained a city girl at heart — "She never bought a paper gate of beans," Fredericks notes — but she loved Vermont and had been planning to build a house on land she owned in Calais. Solomons never married and didn't have children. If she had, they would have had a 50 percent chance of inheriting her gene disorder.

Last June, Solomons was diagnosed with cancer. A tumor on her spine made it difficult for her to walk, and radiation failed to help. It's unclear whether neurofibromatosis was the cause.

Solomons died on September 18, at age 68. Atchick spent many days by her hospital bed. She says Solomons approached the illness with the same dignity and courage she had demonstrated throughout her life.

Atchick is considering publishing one final work that Solomons left behind: a children's book titled *The God and the Stars*. Atchick interprets her friend's story, about a lonely owl who finds a stream, as a parable. The lesson: Accept who you are.

ALICE FREIHE

"He knew how to be cool"

Zachary Wade "Creature" Nicholson, 1964-2015

It's never easy for skateboarders in small towns, especially Vermont. He had places to ride: Greenhupups in Winooski, Zachary Nicholson said his buddies were often forced to retreat to his mom's basement to skate.

That is, until they banded together and convinced local officials to let them convert the town ice rink into a skating park in the warm months. The group built and installed ramps and jumps and dubbed the place "The Stoop." It wasn't the last skate park Nicholson helped build in Vermont.

"Zachary being to create skateboarding and skate parks was good enough for him," recalls Nicholson's lifelong best friend, Jean-Luc Mireault.

Mireault, who was two years older, gave Nicholson his first skateboard

Within a year, the natural athlete was a better skater than Mireault and almost anyone in town.

As a kid, Nicholson often wore T-shirts from skateboard maker Creature. Some friends started song it as his nickname. It stuck, forever — almost everything Nicholson owned as an adult was plastered in Creature stencils.

Born in California, Nicholson moved to Winooski with his parents when he was 4 years old.

He made friends easily. When he was part in second grade, the fifth graders wanted to hang out with him. "It was meant to be fun; he knew how to be cool," his mother, Marsha Nicholson, told *Vermont*. "He was part of a lot of fun."

She remembered skating and snowboarding with him and his buddies — he'd whoop and laugh as he came down the mountain at Sugarbush State and Mad River Gorge.



snowboarding with him and his buddies — he'd whoop and laugh as he came down the mountain at Sugarbush State and Mad River Gorge.

Nicholson also had a quiet, useful side.

His bedroom was the closest to the front door. Seeing himself in his mirror and younger sister's reflection, he kept

a baseball bat by his door, ready to fight off any intruders. Nicholson was also a tireless reader. As a kid, he went far and deep and diverse stories. As an adult, he delved into classic literature.

Nicholson was famous for big, enthusiastic hugs, which he would dole out without discrimination. He made friends easily as an adult, too. Women, his mom says, liked his doe-blue eyes.

He rarely talked about the pain lurking behind them.

According to Van Lautzen, the trouble started when he was about 30 years old, when Nicholson and a friend pilfered grape juice medications from the friend's mother. It grew into a heroin addiction, which sent Nicholson on a decade-long journey of detoxing, relapsing, cleaning up and adapting. It claimed his life in January, when

LINDA STRECKER

the 30-year-old fatally overcooked inside his Winooski apartment.

Even among his close friends, Bhattacharay rarely talked about his struggles.

"He had a lot of pain in his life, and he never burdened anyone too much about it, even when we wish he had," Mousou says. "He had a spirit that was unbelievable. He always found time to care, to look out for his friends and worry about everyone else when he probably should have been worried about himself."

Nicholson supported himself as a cook. He had stints at some of the highest-profile restaurants in the Burlington area, including the Daily Planet, Mile Bar, Bhattacharay's and Moony Love's.

When he was clean, he was a reliable worker.

Mousou was the first chef at trendy Mile Bar, which opened in Winooski in 2003. Nicholson would show up early and stay late to help Mousou in the kitchen. Back at the apartment they shared, he and Mousou would often sit by the fireplace and talk about his dreams of opening his own cafe one day.

He spent many weekends with his mother, often taking her around to various Burlington restaurants — where visitors would usually greet her warmly — or visiting her at her current home in Plattsburgh, NY, to help with household projects.

"He always said it was papaya and he needed to pay me back a lot," Van Loozen remembers. "On his birthday he said, 'I'm still here because of you, Mom.'"

In his final months, Nicholson became an advocate and organizer for the effort to build a new slate path in Burlington, which opened in November. He never got a chance to use it.

On a winter afternoon last January, Van Loozen came up to Burlington for a visit. She and her son grabbed lunch at the Skinny Pancake. He was chatty and excited about his life.

"He seemed really good to me," Van Loozen recalls. "He made me feel good, and we had some good laughs, and then we said goodbye."

Two days later, she was awoken by police pounding on her front door.

MARIE DAVIS

"He left everything as it was"

Phal Bhattacharay, 1927-2016

Moving to a new country is not the way many would choose to spend their old age. Indeed, Phal Bhattacharay had not planned to spend his final years in the United States. He fled most of his life in his native Bhutan, then spent two decades in a refugee camp in Nepal before arriving in Vermont on July 18, 2012. He and seven family members were part of a group of more than 2,000 Bhutanese refugees who have been resettled in the Burlington area.

Jack in Bhutan, Bhattacharay grew rice, corn and cardamom. His second son, Pema, shares details of that time through an interpreter — Bhattacharay's grandson also named Pema. Son Pema says his father had little time for leisure because he was always working. When he wasn't harvesting, he had to work as government construction projects, remembers his son. He'd be away for as long as 40 days, and had little time to bring enough clothes and food supplies with him.

Bhattacharay hadn't wanted to leave his farm in Gasho, in southern Bhutan. The Bhattacharay family was among the tens of thousands of ethnic Nepalis who were stripped of their Bhutanese nationality and expelled from the country in the early 1990s after former King Jigme Singye Wangchuck implemented the "One Nation, One People" policy.

When the police came to their village and closed them out in 1992, the family didn't have time to pack anything other than some rice, Pema says his father, who was 65 years old at that time. "We had no" farmland to leave the house and farm that he had built. "He didn't get a chance to sell anything or harvest anything he left everything as it was."

Life in the refugee camp was "terrible," remembers son Pema. Their small, four-room hut was made of bamboo poles and plastic, with a thatched roof. The huts were built close together and often caught on fire. It was too hot during the summer and too cold during winter. The refugees received rationed food, which included brown rice, pumpkin, cabbage, potatoes and beans. There were few jobs in the camp, and they weren't allowed to leave to work, says Pema.

By the time the older Bhattacharay got to Vermont, he was very thin and ill. He didn't have much of an appetite and was diagnosed with a stomach ulcer. But he still enjoyed French fries from McDonald's, says granddaughter Pema, Bhattacharay's sister.

When he needed to go to the hospital, Pema was the one who took him there. "My brother is always busy, and I was the only one who could help with the translation," she explains.

When the family was in Nepal they lived in different camps and the only one home twice a year in Vermont,



Pema and her mother

but Bhattacharay's ill health meant he couldn't go out often. Moreover, he didn't speak English. "During winter, he'd sit inside and watch Nepali shows on YouTube. That's all," Pema says.

On September 15, Bhattacharay, 88, suffered a stroke. It was hours before he received medical attention. The older Bhattacharay didn't know the symptoms and thought his father was just exhausted when he was unresponsive. The younger Pema says many people in the Bhutanese community "don't know about stroke" because it's something they never encountered in their home country.

After Bhattacharay spent a night at the hospital, doctors told his family they couldn't do anything more for him. They advised the family to bring him home, where he died on the morning of September 22.

At Bhattacharay's funeral, friends and relatives from North Carolina, New Hampshire, Ohio and Pennsylvania came to pay their respects. The younger Pema said he learned from the visitors about his grandfather's generosity. "When somebody came to his house in Bhutan, he didn't let these people go without food."

As per Bhutan tradition, Bhattacharay was cremated. His clothes were distributed among four children, all of whom now live in the US, and some clothes were cremated along with him. Son Pema, who works at Purusha Clothing there to keep a cost. "We want that from a long time ago," he says. "That's why I keep that."

KYMEYLA SARI

"Very caring, would do anything for anybody"
Patricia Forgitte, 1952-2015

Patricia Forgitte was generous to the last. The 63-year-old woman donated her corneas when she died September 23. Today someone is seeing through her eyes. The gift is even more poignant because Forgitte never received the donation she needed a dozen years ago.

Giving, not receiving, was the focus of the 63-year-old woman's life, says her husband of 40 years, Randy Forgitte. "She was very caring, would do anything for anybody, and always smiling," he explains during an interview in the cozy Roost apartment they shared.

Pat and Randy's romance began at a coed football game in 1975, when both were living in Connecticut. Some of the guys were tackling the girls, says Randy, which wasn't very gentlemanly. "Her first impression of me was, 'I don't like how he recalls with a chuckle, 'With me, I think it was love at first sight.'"

Within a year they were married, and they soon made their way to Vermont. Randy's home state, he worked as a test engineer at IBM from 1976 to 2002. They lived in an old house on Main Street in Essex Junction, where they raised four children, before downscaling to an apartment a few years ago.

In addition to raising a large family, Pat worked in admissions at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and as a volunteer counselor. She raised all of her children at a time when it was considered unusual to do so.

Trina Cason, a friend who first met Pat through the Le Leche League, recalled her as deeply nurturing person. Her work on breastfeeding education with new moms was a natural extension of her giving, warm personality.

"She was so kind and gentle and always loved the babies and would always lend a helping hand to support mothers to fully breastfeed," Cason says.

When her children were small, Pat volunteered at Horizons Elementary School. She also volunteered in the nursery school at the First Congregational Church in Essex Junction, made Christmas stockings for all her relatives and made



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"A way of looking at the world that was pretty intense"

Ann Jean Thomas, 1926-2015

Boundless curiosity fueled Ann Thomas' worldly and eventful life. The Woodstock resident's travels spanned three continents and brought her into contact with prominent 20th century literary and cultural figures. Her interests ranged widely as well – from writing poetry to researching the use of leeches in treating severe depression (an illness she struggled with to varying degrees for most of her life).

Thomas "had a way of looking at the world that was pretty intense," says her daughter Charlotte Lenihan.

Charlotte spoke with Seven Days at ShandakenThomas, a handweaving farm and ceramics company in Bridgewater, founded by her sister Miranda Shandaken and Mirandas husband, Charles. Both sisters live nearby and work for the company. Mirandas is co-owner and master potter; Charlotte is business manager.

To hear the sisters tell their mother's many stories it is to be entranced by a

woman who was, in many ways, larger than life.

Thomas – "Bunny" to her friends and family – was born in London, England, in 1926 to Ram and Arthur J. Dern, RA. Her father was a prominent architect known for designing London's Rica Rica Hotel, as well as ocean liners including the Queen Mary. An archive of his work – completed by Thomas in 2010 – is housed at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London's Victoria and Albert Museum. When she was just 16 years old, Thomas began studies at Oxford's Lady Margaret Hall, where she crossed paths with writers C. S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

"Mum was really taken by C.S. Lewis," explains Mirandas. On the other hand, "she was always very rule-bound," Tolkien because she did not like him – because he did not like women." Thomas was allegedly part of a group of female students who would stand outside meetings of the tritology, an all-male literary discussion group that included both Lewis and Tolkien, gleaning whatever ideas could be overheard.

Ann and husband David, whom Mirandas says her mother described as "a dashing young naval officer," married in 1952. They subsequently moved to Boston, where David studied at Harvard Business School and Thomas worked at the Radcliffe College Library. There she helped to administer the university's summer school under the direction of Henry Kostinger (later U.S. secretary of state) and encountered poets Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes.

Like Plath, Thomas was no stranger to despair. After her son Troy was born, Thomas experienced severe postpartum depression, and her emerging mental health struggles intensified. In the 60s, the family moved to New York City. "My father worked hard to find the best research people for manic depression," Mirandas explains.

Thomas was one of the first patients prescribed lithium by psychiatrist Béla Patai in New York-Presbyterian Hospital/ Columbia University Medical Center, and she became a medical researcher in her own right. "She got really established in her own illness," Mirandas recalls. In addition to taking lithium, now widely recognized

Stow Hat
by Ann Jean Thomas

Through
the holes
in my straw hat
I see the sunday

See us
a bee's eyes sees
seers of lower light
multiply endlessly

Than
encryptions
has gone
for a millionfold cold

as
these stars
are eclipsed
by a passing thunder



as being an effective antidote for manic patients. Thomas underwent multiple electric-shock therapy treatments.

Even outside of the sedating Thomas remained a scholar. "She always had about seven decks piled high with photo and paper," daughter Charlotte remembers. For example, Thomas fervently pursued the hypothesis that the women killed during the Salem witch trials were victims of ergotism, a condition caused by consuming wheat and other cereals infested by a parasitic fungal disease.

While David Thomas worked to support the family, they traveled extensively. From 1971 to 1973, they lived in Sydney, Australia. Thomas was fascinated by the art and lives of the country's Aboriginal community, and she collected many bark paintings and artifacts – three of which she donated to the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College in 2006 for its exhibition "Tracing Their Way: Australian Aboriginal Women Painters."

Senior cancer survivor David, who describes Thomas as "a person who had a great deal of respect for these objects, and a great deal of sensitivity for objects in general," she really thought of them as "soul sent from more ways."

Indeed, Mirandas describes her mother as "very mystical." Thomas' loss of the

natural world is revealed in her poetry, which she began writing at age 8. She gave her daughters personalized poems on their birthdays and other momentous occasions throughout their lives. She published her verse, too – her work appeared in *Gilded Poetry, the Atlantic Monthly* and *Verse*, among other publications. Her first collection, *A Safe House*, came out in 1995. In 2013 Thomas published *All Summer's Aloud*, a poetry album with simple illustrations by Mirandas.

Ann and David moved to Woodstock in 2002 from Somerville, Mass., to be near their daughters. In November 2014, family and friends gathered at Woodstock's public library for a special reading. Each person was given one of Thomas' poems, which were read aloud in the order she had written them.

Thomas died at home in July from complications of cardiac arrest. She was 88. In addition to her daughters, she is survived by her husband, David, and sons, Mark and Troy, as well as seven grandchildren.

Though Thomas was a scholar, explorer, patient, artist and mother, Mirandas asserts, "she was a poet more than anything."

RACHEL ELIZABETH JONES

Life Stories

"An amazing ability to connect with people"

Benjamin Donald Wood-Lewis, 1999-2015

Teens who transferred classes and make friends with everyone are a rarity. Ben Wood-Lewis was one of them.

"Ben was the coolest kid in town," remembers a friend and former classmate Joshua Schmitz. "Nobody disliked him."

His father, Michael Wood-Lewis, agrees that Ben "had kind of an amazing ability to connect with people."

That was even more remarkable given that he couldn't speak, walk or communicate on his own. Ben had cerebral palsy, a neurological disorder caused by brain damage. He had little control over his body. To navigate the world, he relied entirely on others — starting with his parents.

Michael and Valerie Wood-Lewis adopted Ben, their first child, a day after he was born. He developed CP in the neonatal intensive care unit when he was two weeks old, due to high bilirubin levels brought on by jaundice. After 82 days in the hospital, the couple brought him home to their South End apartment. Recounts Michael: "I couldn't imagine how we were going to raise this child."

They had some help — Ben had a large team of medical professionals, including doctors, a respiratory therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, an autism communication team, a palliative care team at Boston Children's Hospital and personal care assistants who were with him 24 hours a day. But the Wood-Lewises had recently moved from Washington, D.C., and they didn't yet have many friends nearby.

Valerie remembers bringing Ben to playgrounds, where she found company, but not camaraderie. "What every one else was talking about was not what we were talking about," she recalls.

Meanwhile, the rich company Michael had been working for had recently imploded. Considering his next move, he thought of a neighbor he had known growing up who had also had CP. The two became friends, which, Michael says, had a profound effect on his life.

He hoped his neighbors would develop similar friendships with his own son, but the connection Michael felt in his old neighborhood was missing in



his new one. That was partly why he and Valerie developed a free, leather-bound email newsletter service in 2009, and invited their neighbors to join. The emails proved popular, and evolved into Frost Patch Forum, an online community-building platform now used by 1,000,000 Vermonters statewide.

FPP wasn't just a business success — it helped the Wood-Lewises, who had moved into a two-story house in Burlington's Free Sisters neighborhood, to meet their neighbors. Ben quickly won people over; his unexpected, joyful, and frequently flushed-by-embarrassment smile.

And he loved to play. Thanks to adaptive sports programs — and endurance as his focus — he was able to ski, surf, hike, pursue and wrestle on the floor.

His parents advocated for many steps along the way. That included prompting the school district to hold a wheelchair race at Champlain Elementary, working with the Burlington Department of Parks and Recreation to purchase tools to make North Beach a wheelchair accessible, and gathering an effort to convert an elevator at Edmunds Middle School, so that Ben could maintain the friendships he had developed at Champlain.

These campaigns didn't just help Ben and others with mobility issues; they caught Patrick Halliday's eye. Halliday, a senior in Ben's class from third

through eighth grade, both Daniel and his brother, Russell, spoke at public meetings to advocate for the elevator. They learned about how government works and grappled with issues of inclusion, fairness and civic responsibility.

"Talk about a fantastic learning experience," Halliday marvels.

They did fun stuff together, too. Halliday remembers Ben's third-grade birthday party, which included climbing at Caban Park. "The kids were doing what they could to pull Ben up and down the hill," he remembers. "They're pulling him up, and he's falling down laughing."

Halliday, a former elementary school teacher who now works with the Vermont Agency of Education, says he's seen this dynamic at work in the classroom, too. Students learn valuable lessons from their peers with special needs, and other kids end up helping a classroom.

On Ben's first Edmunds Middle School field trip to Mount Mansfield, for example, his classmates spontaneously decided that he shouldn't miss the hike to the top. Rather than have a teacher drive him up, the kids pushed and pulled him up the mountain.

Josh Schmitz went on a similar class trip a year later, when a teacher brought a cross-country ski harness and a rope, which the students attached to Ben's wheelchair. A group of 10 kids, including Josh, took turns helping Ben to the summit.

"We were moving at a pretty good

pace," Josh remembers. "It was hard but fun."

Because of Ben, Josh got involved in the Special Olympics unified team. He and Ben bowled, played basketball and did track and field together.

Josh says people recognized Ben everywhere he went. "Everybody in the room knew him," he says. "He was an incredible person."

Despite his CP, Ben wasn't a sick kid, says his parents. So it was a surprise when he struggled to recover from a pinned July 4 stringer to replace a medication pump in his back; his decline was likely due to the neurological effect of severe CP on his body. After three weeks in intensive care at Boston Children's Hospital, Ben came home, but he was failing.

Over three days, friends and neighbors visited at the rate of "a hundred a day," says Michael, first to welcome Ben home, and then to say goodbye and console the family, including Ben's younger siblings, Maddie, Henry and Isla. Ben died at home in August, surrounded by his family, a month shy of his 16th birthday.

His memorial service at Burlington's First Unitarian Universalist Society drew hundreds of mourners, many of them peers. A slide show of photos featured numerous group shots with a wide variety of pals.

"There are not many people who could cross groups like that," says Valerie. "He was a bridge builder."

CATHY BESHER

BEN WAS THE COOLEST KID IN TOWN.

JOSHUA SCHMITZ

Fare Thee Well

2015's highs and lows in Vermont food and drink

BY NATHAN PALMER EGAN

Food writers want every restaurant to be exceptional. We crave exquisite, thoughtfully prepared food sourced from the best local farms and fisheries. We swoon for service that's charming and professional but casual and familiar for friendly bartenders who know what we're drinking before we do. We yearn for chefs who honor their own heritage and this glorious green place we live in, who pair creativity with tradition and have a skill set to match. We applaud those who aren't afraid to take risks.

Restaurants that achieve even half of those things with any consistency offer far more than just a decent supper. They supply an escape from the daily grind, swaddling us in pleasure for a few short hours before gently releasing us, happy and full.

A cheap neighborhood joint can fulfill those aims as well as — sometimes better than — a three-star shrine to gastronomy. Many restaurants could get to this level with a little polishing, but don't. That leaves food writers disappointed and often a bit cranky about the local dining scene, whether they live in New York City or San Francisco or Burlington. And, yes, I know this is a first-world problem and mine is a dream job.

But, glancing back over 2015, I'm kind of around by all the wonderful things that happened. Even though I spent untold hours seeking out the latest and greatest in Vermont food and drink, I know I missed many point-crusting delights. So, based on what I did see and taste, I offer this megof thanks to some of the restaurants, chefs and food artisans who made 2015 a sweet year to eat and drink in Vermont.



Marc Prevezacher

Best New Chef

Marc Prevezacher, Taverne Khrone, Shelburne

Locals were sad when Cafe Shelburne closed after dinner on December 31, 2014. But by April, Marc chef Marc Prevezacher had installed a new Greek restaurant in the space. His cooking is rugged and traditional — no smooth-style falafel or gyro here.

Instead, Prevezacher's menu presents a degree of approachability. A smoking hot egg, stained red with tomato and pepper, is fiery friendly, while tzatziki — the ubiquitous cucumber puree traditional on Greek tables — might make business for folks who didn't grow up on souvlakia or greek fish.

Across the menu, elegant details enhance the basic portions. During a red snapper meal, strands of cherries from Shelburne orchards punctuated a pan-fried, red-wine-brined leg of rabbit. Another night, Prevezacher's hand-made Greek spaghetti was folded with nutty, brown-butter-fried Crispy sunchoke and accented with feta, fresh-picked verbenas. His fire-grilled lamb chops were magnificent in their fatty, fork-tender simplicity.

While not every Taverne dish is perfect, most are fantastic. What's most exciting is the young chef's audacity in bringing something totally new to the area — and his ability to execute each meal with style to spare.

Best Menu Reinvention

Artisfet, Burlington

Technically, chef George Lumberton took over for Artisfet's weekly "Kitchen collective" in November 2014. At that point, his menu was brief — a handful of his twists on classic pub fare, each





Antiburger on breakfast

I COULD PROBABLY EAT CHEF NARIN PHANTHAKHOT'S PEPPER-TINGED PORK PATTIES, WITH THEIR PERFECT WHITE RICE AND MORE KINCHI, EVERY DAY.

as popcorn chicken, a "creepster" patty on brioche, bruschetta, and lots of housemade pickles and preserves. But by this past summer, he'd expanded the menu to include dishes such as plump scallion pancakes over a tangle of noshed baldwin carrots sautéed in pan jus, and pan-roasted pheasant with confit potato and frites.

The sweetest part? The prices. Two people can grab a filling meal — with drinks — for around \$25 each. Which means that Antiburger's signature 400-burger — topped with pickle, "Mexican" cheese, and a secret, fast-food-esque "special sauce" — is easily one of my favorites in town. Even more so at \$10.50.

Best Meal

Batch + Bakes, Burlington

At first, I wasn't sold on Batch + Bakes, which opened in Burlington's Old North End in January 2015. The concept was funny — a bare-forward "neighborhood pub" with a Thai chef? It sounded of *Could be good* — except that people kept saying nice things about the place, and when I finally got over there earlier this month, I was hooked from the first bite. It didn't let up until the plates were cleared.



Narin Phanthakhot of Batch + Bakes in



Slice of the Passion

The meal began with a huge hunk of glossy noodles swimming in citrus-tangy broth. Corn cakes were stuffed with sweet, ripe whale kernels were served over a schmear of spicy pickled kimchi. No paleo here.

Then, juices streamed from a fat, meaty local-beef burger stacked into spangly locum. Don't get me started on the spicy ranch dipping sauce for the fries. And I could probably eat chef Narin Phanthakhot's pepper-tinged pork patties, with their perfect white rice and more kimchi, every day. Dig the cheapo ate-a-Chicago-style hot dog and call it good.

In the end, all over the place is sort of, but it reaches a state of cohesion somewhere between the Pacific Northwest and Middle America. There's truly something for everyone — like, who could resist rose-and-chase pancakes? The result is very Burlington and very much its own, and I totally dig it.

Best Pizza

Pizza on Main, Montpelier

Vermont has plenty of gorgonzola-basted, Neapolitan-style rounds, and I enjoy those very much. But the bare pizzas in the state opened early last spring — in Montpelier — and its owners are New York native transplants. They're so crazy about these same toppings that they spent a year apprenticing in a benchmark Westchester pizza joint, learning the ins and outs of nailing a perfect pie.

At Pizza on Main, the micro-thin rounds are 18 inches across, crisp and tangy with arugula and manouri and a barely there slice of salty bleu cheese.

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Best New Restaurant Bistro de Mergat

Reviewed this past couple of weeks ago—everywhere—every dish, drink and house-baked bread—had it chef-owner Hervé Mérat's involvement plain and obvious, composed, refined, classic and modern.

So good, it's hard to believe it's a neighborhood bistro, a tiny, unpretentious, unassuming place with a few tables and chairs tucked away just off the main road. (It could easily be mistaken for a deli or a chemist's.) The menu is a good mix of classic French cooking and a few surprises.

Or maybe it's just Hervé's idiosyncrasy that makes one eat and savor and savor again. But this is about *Wauw!*—unbeaten-by-a-spade of Bistro de Mérat—was better than the chichi

French chichi mentioned in the sidebar—of Hervé's restaurant. (He's worked at this address for years when it was L'Assiette, then right, in a former French bakery taken over an organic wine tasting. In part of having an empty restaurant at \$10,000 a week, he never had to pay for wine or rings.)

Philippe being a Bistrode: background to the kitchen. Trained in France from an early age, he graduated from one of that country's leading culinary institutes (he spent 20 years serving those students before moving to the U.S.).

That's what I suppose one needs about the restaurant's chef, before racing to its unpretentious, 10-seat bistro. He seems to understand that sometimes the best restaurants succeed exactly because they do something tried and true very well.

Fare Thee Well

Many's foldable chairs are bigger than your face (cut from 20-inch pads) — for \$150 to \$45 each. Toppings? Add what ever you want — mozzarella, prosciutto, speck — and you'll find it super fresh, crisp and good. The shop also serves Italian and deli-style "wedges" (aka subs) and fun regional specialties such as fried ravioli and strozzapreti. But I'm there for the pizza. Go, and be converted.

Emergent Dining Destination

Stowe

In recent decades, Stowe hasn't wanted for restaurants. Owing to its tourist economy, it's long offered more places to eat per capita than most Vermont towns.

But in 2015, Stowe's dining scene went from decent to great. In January, new owners renamed the inn at Edna Hill with chef Chad Stanley in the kitchen and Ben Horrigan behind the bar. (Horrigan has since moved on, but many of his contracts remain.) The restaurant marries old New England fare (clambakes, crab cakes) to modern New American cuisine with subtle Asian twists that Stanley gleaned from his spent working under Ray Manzarek and Masatoshi Morimoto. It's a dining experience in which the food matches the setting.

More food after the classifieds section [page 49](#)



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Mavis

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spayed female

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Owner unable to care for

SUMMARY: Oh my! It's Mavis! Mavis is a young rabbit who is full of life and spirit! She loves to spend her days munching on hay and veggies, followed by a nice and relaxing stretched-out nap. She also loves having tons of space to hop and spring around in! If you're looking to ring in the New Year with a fun new pet, then we suggest that you meet, meet Mavis!

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Adrienne Chapman
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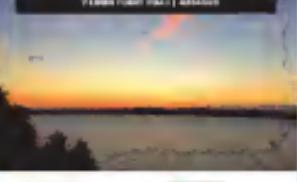
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Bethelton, VT

The following changes
published in the
Vermont Standard
on June 18, 2013
and listed below
are being proposed by
the Board of Selectmen
and the Board of
Assessors.

1. Shift of City of
Bethelton boundaries
area of 1945. The 2013
area is approximately
increased in size
and the Board of
Assessors will be
responsible for
assessing the
area.

2. Resigned. 100

Resigned. 100

There shall be
assessments in said City
of Bethelton, consisting
of the City Assessors
and the Board of
Assessors.

For the continuing
of known boundaries of said
City, in favor of Public
Works, Cemetery, schools
and other areas.

REK HIGGS, PFM #34, 1000A
a Board of Assessors
Commissioners.

and a Board of Assessors
and a Board of Selectmen
for the legal status of
said City of Bethelton.

Assessor. Duties will be
assessing the property
of the City of
Bethelton and legal
status of the City of
Bethelton. Board of
Assessors. Duties will
be assessing the
property of the City of
Bethelton.

members of said Board
to be appointed by the
City Council with Mayor
presiding. A Board of
Selectmen consists of
the Mayor, the Mayor
of the City of Bethelton
and the Board of
Assessors. Duties will
be assessing the
property of the City of
Bethelton.

Section 103. Board of
Assessors consists of
six members. The
reservoir of the
Board of Assessors shall
consist of the Mayor
of the City of Bethelton
and the Board of
Assessors. Duties will
be assessing the
property of the City of
Bethelton.

Section 104. Board of
Assessors consists of
six members. The
reservoir of the
Board of Assessors shall
consist of the Mayor
of the City of Bethelton
and the Board of
Assessors. Duties will
be assessing the
property of the City of
Bethelton.

Section 105. The City
of Bethelton will be
responsible for the
assessing the property
of the City of Bethelton
and the Board of
Assessors. Duties will
be assessing the
property of the City of
Bethelton.

Section 106. The
Board of Assessors
will be responsible
for the assessing the
property of the City of
Bethelton.

Section 107. The
Board of Assessors
will be responsible
for the assessing the
property of the City of
Bethelton.

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Harry Snyder at 770-1510, hsnyder@vnah.org.

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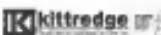
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CIS EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM LEADER

The Parent Child Center of Northwestern Vermont seeks a skilled and energetic leader to join our Children's Integrated Services team as the Early Intervention program. The ideal candidate will possess experience in providing family-centered care to infants and toddlers with developmental delays and/or genetic disorders. Experience in home visiting and service coordination as well as knowledge of early childhood development and staff supervision is critical. Relevant Master's degree and experience is required. We offer an excellent benefit package including medical, dental, 403(b), and educational assistance. Position available January 2016.

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OFFICE MANAGER

Energy Development is currently seeking a highly motivated individual with the skills, experience and attitude to serve as Office Manager. The successful candidate will work with our team in support of the first major planned renewable energy project development and management practice. This position will begin on a part-time basis estimated at 30-40 hours per week.

For an interview or to fill out the application, please contact hr@energydevelopmentvt.com



**OFFICE CLEANERS**

Part-time work available for cleaning offices in Winooski. Must be able to work independently. Up to four nights a week (maximum 17 hours). Call 879-6364 for more information.

**EARN
\$70**

Research Project on Decision Making

Group will meet on Monday and Tuesday, January 11 and 12, 2016, 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Complimentary food and beverages will be served. Burlington area, 18 years or older.

CONTACT:
458-5990

mdydecon@gmail.com

**Business
Manager**

Seeking experienced business manager to join strong, cohesive school staff at

Orchard Valley Waldorf School's 55-acre East Montpelier campus.

See www.ovws.org for job description
802-456-7400
E. Montpelier, VT



Back to school, looking for a change?

Wait Staff

Full- and Part-Time Openings

Wake Robin, Winooski's premier continuing care retirement community is adding members to our team of Dining Room Wait Staff. Wait Staff help to create a fine dining experience for our residents in a restaurant-style environment that results meal time restaurants. This is a perfect opportunity for students with the time and drive to begin their working experience, or for professionals who wish supplement their current career endeavors.

Experience as a server is preferred but not required. We will train applicants who demonstrate strong customer service skills and a desire to work with an active population of seniors.

The Wake Robin dining room does not serve alcohol and is the perfect environment for aspiring food servers who are not yet 18.

Wake Robin offers a flexible schedule to match your goals. Interested please email hr@wake-robin.com or fax your resume with cover letter to 802. 284-5146.

Rutland Area
Fishing, Natare, Association & Hospice
Our family is big for your family since 1948

**HOME CARE AIDES - IMMEDIATE OPENINGS
ALL SHIFTS: DAYS/EVENINGS/WEEKENDS**

Work for One of the Top-Performing Home Health Agencies in the U.S.

The VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region, consisting of the Bennington, Dernot and Rutland Area VNA and Hospice, is looking for Home Care Aides (licensed Nursing Assistants and Personal Care Attendants) to work throughout Rutland County and in select sections of Bennington County. As a member of our team, you will be part of a group of home health care professionals who deliver specialized one-on-one care to patients in their homes.

For more information please contact Kim Snyder at (802) 770-1210 or email at hsnyder@vnaoh.org. An equal opportunity employer EOE.

Bennington Area
Fishing, Natare, Association & Hospice

CCS
Chittenden Community Services

Shared Living Provider

Support an individual with a developmental or intellectual disability to live at home as an adult. A generous stipend, paid time off (vacation), and comprehensive training and supports are available for providing residential support to an individual. We are currently offering variety of exciting opportunities.

For more information contact Jennifer Wilcox
jwilcox@ccsvt.org or 863-8211, ext. 118

Chittenden Community Services
112 Tracy Ave. Suite 1
Colchester, VT 05446
863-8211

001-PE-813

106

CAREGIVERS NEEDED

The Residence at Shelburne Bay, a premier Level III hospitality-oriented senior living community in Shelburne, is accepting applications for Caregivers for the following positions:

- **Overnights**
- **Evenings**
- **Days**

A Caregiver's role is vital to the quality of our residents' daily lives. You will make a difference in their life as well as your own, including a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction helping others.

Applicants must have good verbal and written communications skills and be nurturing, caring and reliable. Must be comfortable with computers. Previous caregiving experience preferred; however, we are willing to train applicants with strong qualifications and the willingness to learn. Candidates are also eligible to apply for a promotion to medication technician after 90 days of exemplary performance. Background checks required.

We offer competitive salaries and benefits for full-time positions including health, dental, vision, paid time off and a comfortable and peaceful working environment where our residents are nurtured and allowed to age with grace and dignity.

Send reply with your resume or stop by and pick up an application at:

The Residence at Shelburne Bay
185 Pine Haven Shore Road
Shelburne, VT 05482



Chittenden East
Supervisory Union

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

Full and part-time, substitute and trip drivers needed.

Experience preferred. CDL required; will train. Excellent benefits, positive working conditions.

Please apply online at schoolbusjobs.com or call 434-2126 for an application.

Application must include letter of intent, resume and references. Hand copies of three letters of reference required for verification at interview level.

Visit our website, www.k12vt.org, to learn more about our schools. EOE. M/F.

**Critical Treatment
Substance Abuse Services**

Access Coordinator/ HUB & Adult Clinicians

HUB Clinician: Master's or bachelor's-level clinician position working with adults as part of our HUB & Spoke medication-assisted therapy (MAT) program. This position will focus on access to care and provide a bridge from the MAT program to referrals to the treatment service options. Work will involve assessments, group and individual therapy, case management as well as coordination with the Department of Corrections. Previous experience working with people in recovery from addiction is preferable. A LADC is preferred. Working hours roughly 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Substance Abuse Treatment Clinician: Master's or bachelor's-level clinical position (SADC preferred) providing outpatient counseling to adults, adolescents and families dealing with substance abuse related issues. Treatment modalities may be provided using group, individual or couples counseling and may include some work-on-site. Out-Patient Treatment Program

Individuals who are interested in being part of a dynamic team are encouraged to apply. Flexibility, dependability, strong communication, organizational skills and the ability to be a team player are essential. We offer a flexible benefit package which can be taken as a cash benefit, 401k retirement match and generous time off policy. If interested, please send resume and letter of interest to:

**Rachel Yeager, HR Coordinator,
Clara Martin Center**
P.O. Box G
Randolph, VT 05060
or to: ryeager@claramartin.org

EOE

Merchandiser Needed for Very Busy Beer and Wine Wholesaler

In addition to excellent customer and full benefit package. Ideal hours are, reliable transportation and a clean driving record. Hours include but are not limited to: 10am-6pm periods on a regular basis, getting product on shelves, building displays and keeping product clean.

Send a resume to ryeager@claramartin.org. No phone calls, please.

Spring Lake Ranch
Therapeutic Community

Human Resources Director

Conwayville

Spring Lake Ranch Therapeutic Community is a uniquely relational therapeutic home on 620 beautiful acres, supports and empowers people with mental health and addiction challenges to grow, thrive and gain independence. The Human Resources Director works collaboratively with a variety of other staff to fulfill the human resources needs of Spring Lake Ranch. Strong, performance-oriented, attention to training, employee development, communication, job descriptions, benefit administration, employee assistance program, state licensure, employment law and licensing compliance. Bachelor's degree and minimum of two years human resources experience required. Experience in corporate, medical, social service, HR or personnel, full time with benefits. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays/Fridays. Response to hr@springlakeraunch.org

The State of Vermont

For the people, the place, the possibilities

**Vermont Psychiatric
Care Hospital**

REGISTERED NURSE

Excellent Opportunities for Experienced Nurses

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital is a 25-bed state-of-the-art, progressive facility providing excellent care in a recovery-oriented, safe, respectful environment. We have multiple openings for Registered Nurses on all shifts.

Offering starting pay based on experience. Psychiatric Nurse I: \$52,800-\$62,524. Also offering many sign-on, retention bonuses and educational opportunities. Tuition reimbursement and loan repayment assistance may be available for eligible applicants.

Whether you are a nurse seeking a career path or looking for a change, you can make a difference in the changing landscape of mental health care. This is a rewarding opportunity at VPCH.

Apply online at careers.vermont.gov.

Psychiatric Nurse II – 16 hours. Job Opening ID# 617811

For more information, please contact Kathy Rutter at 802-865-0501 or kathy.rutter@vermont.gov.

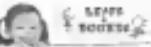
To apply you must use the online job application at careers.vermont.gov. For questions related to your application, please contact the Department of Human Resources, Recruitment Services, at 802-420-6700 (voice) or 800-633-6193 (TDD/TTY service). The State of Vermont is an equal opportunity employer and offers an excellent total compensation package.

VERMONT

Learn and Research at Home!

Teachers
to earn our growing
classroom hours!

Email resources to info@teachatyourdesk.com or call 1-800-238-2320



BUSINESS PROCESS ANALYST

The Vermont Judiciary seeks 17-20 people to work on a multi-year software project. The match between process redesign and existing technology skills required. Prefer law, change management, process redesign and rule changes. Position offers salary over \$50K, overtime, 8-hour days and emerita benefits. Open and Closed. If interested, please run www.vjdpvt.org/jobs.

GOALS OPPORTUNITY DEPLAIS.

VELAN

QC DOCUMENT ADMINISTRATOR

With VELAN Corp seeks entry-level candidate for QC Document Administrator to work in conjunction with our DA/QC Team. Document Administrator oversees QC documentation package and provides customer support in conjunction with these packages, as well as schedule and provide support for customer-related inquiries. Candidate must be proficient with Word, Excel and Quick, have strong communication skills, and be able to work in a team environment. Experience desired but not mandatory.

Please submit resume with salary expectations to william.pearson@velan.com



Resident Support Staff

Pathways Vermont is an alternative to hospitalization for individuals experiencing an initial episode of psychosis who wish to maximize their exposures to medications. The residence is located in Burlington and has the capacity to serve up to five individuals at a given time.

The Resident Support Staff is focused on essential house functions and using a non directive and non judgmental approach to living with residents.

For more information, and to apply, please visit: pathwaysvermont.org/jobs.html

pathwaysvermont.org/jobs.html

PAYDATA[®]

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

PayData Workforce Solutions, Inc. is looking for an additional team member to join our Client Service Department as a

Payroll Processor/Client Service Representative.

Our Client Service Representatives work closely with our clients to produce accurate payroll utilizing various input methods including data entry, Excel workbooks and time clock imports. The ability to perform multiple tasks efficiently and manage ongoing projects is necessary. Attention to detail is a must. Candidates must have prior payroll experience as well as customer service experience and possess strong communication and organizational skills. Candidates should also have previous troubleshooting skills and be able to adapt to new and changing technology. Our Client Service Representatives work in a team environment and office setting. Experience handling a large volume of telephone calls, as well as having strong number skills or prior pay of experience, is required. Working knowledge of the Payroll payroll software is desirable. Experience with Windows including Word, Excel and Outlook is required as well as strong keyboarding skills.

Apply online at:
paydatapayroll.com/careerservice.com/jobs.aspx



HOWARD
CENTER

Developmental Services

Seeking, Shared Living Provider!

Seeking Shared Living Provider to support an 18-year-old woman, and college student, who enjoys cooking, dancing and playing card games. This individual is looking for a skilled and patient provider who can provide support as she becomes an adult and continues to build independence. The right provider will have strong listening, direct communication and the ability to work as part of a larger team, and be able to provide on-going care and supervision. This would be an ideal opportunity for a professional or graduate student with experience in the field of social work and/or counseling. Compensation: \$12,500 per six-month period.

Seeking female Shared Living Provider to support an 18-year-old woman, and college student, who enjoys cooking, dancing and playing card games. This individual is looking for a skilled and patient provider who can provide support as she becomes an adult and continues to build independence. The right provider will have strong listening, direct communication and the ability to work as part of a larger team, and be able to provide on-going care and supervision. This would be an ideal opportunity for a professional or graduate student with experience in the field of social work and/or counseling. Compensation: \$10,000 per six-month period.

All interested candidates please contact link@howardcenter.org or call 406-8563.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION

Alternative health care practices with locations in Northeast Kingdom and Montpelier area seeks committed member to join our team. Computer, office and communication skills required. Attention to detail, ability to multitask and assist patients in a professional manner is critical. Training in the Bioblock area, 15 to 20 hours per week. Employment primarily in Montpelier area, up to 30 hours per week possible as a permanent position.

Send resume, anticipated salary range and cover letter to ashleyh@paho.com.

FLYNN CENTER

PERFORMING ARTS

The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts seeks applicants for a part-time School Programs Coordinator to join our Education team and be a part of northern New England's premier performing arts center.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

The School Programs Coordinator is responsible for managing workshop and conference logistics with teachers and teaching artists, collecting, entering, and reporting on related data, grant tracking, working with the marketing and promotion of school programs, and providing support around our local teachers and visiting artists in schools. The ideal candidate will have very strong organizational skills, the ability to work independently, grace in problem solving, and knowledge of schools and performing arts education.

For a detailed job description and more information, visit our website at:

flynncenter.org/about-us/employment-and-internship-opportunities.html

Please submit application materials by January 8, 2014 to:
Flynn Center for the Performing Arts
Human Resources Department
153 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
or email: hresources@flynncenter.org.

No phone calls, please. EOE.

meredith

content licensing

We create multi-platform content marketing solutions powered by Meredith Corporation brands including EatingWell, Shape, Parents, shape.com, Better Homes and Gardens and others.

Director, Health and Wellness Content Licensing Sales

Seeking experienced, results oriented salesperson to join our content licensing team. Position is responsible for strategic prospecting, proposal development, contracting and ongoing client relationship management. Your clients will be insurance and pharmaceutical companies, corporate wellness providers, tech companies, and other entities looking for content solutions to power their health-focused adherence, patient support, and marketing and advocacy campaigns.

Java/Play/Scala Developer

Help build our content delivery software, meal planning products, hosted client solutions and micro service APIs. We use Java/Scala/Play/Scala, Nginx, Vertx, Jenkins, Ingress/Kafka, Elastic Search, MySQL, MongoDB, Composer, compensation, cool work environment and staff lunches from EatingWell test kitchen.

Positions are located at EatingWell offices in St. Albans. Send resume and cover letter to: jobs@eatingwell.com.

Go to eatingwell.com/jobs for more information.



vermont
creamery



OPEN POSITIONS

Vermont Creamery a since 1984 dairy farm with 30 years of success in business, is now hiring for several positions, as follows.

IT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR PRODUCTION/SANITATION WORKERS

Good starting wage based on experience. Benefit package includes medical insurance, retirement plan, vacation, paid holidays, training program and cheese privileges.

Mail or stop in for an application at:

Vermont Creamery
PO Box 95, 40 Pitman Road, Websterville, VT 05678
or apply online at jobs@vermontcreamery.com

YOUR
TRUSTED
LOCAL
SOURCE.
SEVEN
DAYSVT.
COM/JOB



Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc.

Seeking staff committed to making a difference.

ADMINISTRATIVE

EMR Application, Training and Support Specialist: Responsible for electronic medical record system support, testing and troubleshooting. Prepare documentation and provide end user training and EMR help desk assistance. Assist with testing for upgrades, patches and other system enhancements. Minimum requirements: associate's degree or experience commensurate with education. This is a full-time, benefit eligible position.

EMR/Billing Associate: Maintain client information, submit claims, apply payments, and scan and release client records. Associate's degree plus one year of relevant experience or a combination of education and experience required. Attention to detail is must. This is a full-time, benefit eligible position.

ADULT OUTPATIENT

Care Manager: Seeking a support worker who will provide psychiatric support services in the community to adult clients. Work closely with therapists and managing team clinicians. Strong candidates will have knowledge of mental health issues, strong social support skills, excellent judgment and familiarity with community resources. This is a full-time, benefit eligible position.

Clinician: Seeking a Vermont licensed MSW mental health professional with excellent clinical skills for a full-time benefit eligible position. Provide outpatient psychotherapy primarily to adults on a short-term, long term and/or intermittent basis. Primary program assignments will be providing clinical services to clients enrolled in our Adult Stabilization Crisis Program. LADC licensure is a plus. Strong assessment skills and a willingness to collaborate with a larger AOP team are crucial.

Eldercare Clinician: Excellent opportunity for a passionate individual with MSW seeking to provide psychotherapy to clients for a wide range of mental health and substance abuse issues. Provide outreach services to homebound elders. Plan individual treatment and consult with social service organizations, private therapists, and other health care providers to coordinate treatment services. This position offers excellent supervision, flexibility and the opportunity to grow your clinical skills through training!

NEW JOBS POSTED DAILY!

SEVENDAYSVT.COM/CLASSIFIEDS

OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIAN

Retina Center of Vermont is seeking a friendly, motivated Ophthalmic Technician for a full-time position in our South Burlington office.

Qualifying technicians are responsible for patient intake using computerized health records, assisting in office and operating room procedures, and performing retinal image diagnostic testing. Technicians must be able to rotate on emergency call schedules due to the nature of the specialty. Professional certification is preferred but not necessary; some experience in ophthalmology is required.

Please submit a resume to Aaron Mitton,
amiton@retinacentervermont.com

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Service Coordinator: To develop, implement and monitor supports for persons with developmental disabilities and their families. This position also develops and provides overall coordination for our community integration services. Excellent supervisory, organizational, interpersonal and communication skills required. Basic schedule is 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, but must be flexible to respond to emergency situations and some after-hours calls. BA in a human services field, good driving record and clean background checks necessary. Full time with generous benefit package.

YOUTH & FAMILY

Outreach Clinician: Join our dynamic team of clinicians and work in homes, communities and schools with children, adolescents and families with emotional and behavioral challenges and developmental disorders. We're seeking creative thinkers for this rewarding position. Masters degree in a human services field, plus two to four years of relevant counseling experience. This is a full-time, benefit eligible position.

School-Based Clinician: Provide in-school, direct counseling, behavioral and emotional support to children and adolescents in crisis, with severe emotional and behavioral disturbances. Masters degree in a human services field required, licensure preferred, plus two to four years of relevant counseling experience. Full-time and part-time positions are available.

Student Assistance Professional: Interact with students, faculty and parents in local a local high school to raise awareness of substance abuse issues utilizing prevention and counseling techniques to achieve the goal. Screening and some assessment and early intervention; referrals to appropriate care. Licensure substance abuse clinician or certificate in an addictions counselor or apprenticeship masters degree in counseling, social work or related field. This position is five days per week during the school year.

Youth Employment Case Manager: Seeking an individual dedicated to making a difference in the lives of local youth. Join our JBS team — Jump On Board for Success! In this role you will provide employment support services for young adults between the ages of 16 to 26 labeled severely emotionally disabled. Ideal candidate will be able to collaborate with resources inside and outside of the agency assist with job development, long term follow-up and provide specialized related services. Bachelor's degree and two to four years relevant experience required.



**HOWARD
CENTER**
Help is here

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Building Cleaning Services Manager

Seeking a responsible person who is self-motivated to be our Building Cleaning Services Manager. This job is directly responsible for all cleaning needs throughout the agency's 60 sites. Besides working with BCS staff, this person oversees contracted cleaning, temporary workers, cleaning performed by program staff, and cleaning performed by clients. Must have strong and diverse supervisory skills and have the ability to communicate clearly orally, electronically, and in writing. The demands of this job require flexibility in work hours and the ability to handle multiple tasks. A strong background in commercial and residential cleaning, and knowledge of both manual and complex cleaning is absolutely necessary. Job ID 3003.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

Are you concerned about the opioid epidemic that is ravaging our state? Want to work in a fast-paced environment with a multidisciplinary team of enthusiastic and caring professionals?

The Chittenden Clinic at Howard Center offers opportunities for employment and development across many disciplines, including **immediate openings for laboratory technicians, security, social work, and leadership.**

Opportunities for growth/advancement. On our Careers website, enter search term: "Chittenden Clinic."

CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Autism Interventionist

Join Howard Center to work full-time with children ages 2-21 years with autism spectrum disorders. Provide intensive behavioral intervention services in public schools, homes and community settings. Training and ongoing supervision provided. Excellent professional development opportunity. Transportation required. Bachelor's degree and some experience with children earlier special needs necessary. Job ID 3075.

Clinician, School Services

Four positions available! All positions are school based mental health positions that are located between Howard Center and the school district served. Clinician provide various mental health, consultation and case management services while utilizing a school based work model.

- Part-time with K-5 students in Burlington: 24-hour/week at the Sustainability Academy (11 hours) and Champlain Elementary School (8 hours) in Burlington. Job ID 2948.

• Full-time with grades 9-12 at Milton: 40 hours/week in Milton High School. Job ID 2949

- Full-time at Franklin Elementary School in Essex, grades 3-5 Job ID 2950
- Part-time at Albert D. Lawton Middle School in Essex (maximum 20 hours) students in grades 6-8 (22 hours) Job ID 3008

Counselor, Family, IFSB

Do you enjoy working with families and providing in-home family support? Intensive Family-Based Services (IFBS) is looking for a regular full-time family counselor to provide short-term (12 weeks) intensive in-home treatment to families (live-in or need). The goal of IFBS is to prevent out-of-home placement due to mental health crisis, abuse, neglect or emotional disturbance. Experience required: working with families and children, crisis intervention, clinical assessment, team collaboration among workers and communication skills. Knowledge of trauma informed care and the impact of substance use/abuse on families is highly desired. Some evening work is required and use of a personal vehicle is a must. Job ID 2955

Crisis Stabilization, Clinician, FCBS

Intensive in-day work! Howard Center is seeking an energetic, self-directed, part-time (12.5 hours/week) clinician to join our team. Provide short-term, in-home family work to children and families experiencing crisis. This includes assessment, crisis stabilization, care management and timely de-escalation. This position is for you and involves some evening, hours and use of a personal vehicle. The ideal candidate will be skilled in providing acute clinical assessment and be knowledgeable about community resources. Master's degree and 2-3 years of experience in children's mental health required. Significant exposure to trauma informed care and emerging professional development opportunities are required for the right candidate. Job ID 3007

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Intensive Community Support Worker, Floater, Adult and Family Floater

Intensive Community Support Workers provide community-based specialized one-to-one support and opportunities to multiple clients who possess a range of intellectual disabilities. Person-centered relationship building skills, and boundary setting are necessary skills for this position, as some individuals you will work with have challenging behaviors. Other individuals may require assistance with personal care. Candidates must possess good judgment, independent decision-making, and cross-training skills. At least three years of experience in human services or a combination of education and experience from which comparable knowledge and skill has been acquired. Knowledge and skills in de-escalation techniques strongly desired. Candidates must have a vehicle and driver's license. The schedule is 60 hours per week. This is an excellent opportunity for those interested in the medical field, psychology or social work. Job ID 3009

For more information, please visit howardcentercareers.org.

Howard Center offers an excellent benefits package including health, dental, and life insurance, as well as generous paid time off for all regular positions scheduled 20-plus-hours-per-week.

Applicants needing assistance or an accommodation in completing this online application should feel free to contact

Human Resources at 868-6958 or hr@polsky@howardcenter.org



Our mission is to help children thrive by empowering families to break cycles of poverty, addiction and abuse. Lund offers hope and opportunity to families through education, treatment, family support and adoption. Lund offers competitive pay and paid training,

extensive time off accrual, and 11 paid holidays per year as well as a full benefit package including health, dental, life and disability insurance and retirement for full-time employees. EEO/AA.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER

FULL- AND PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE Lund's five-star accredited early childhood education program provides children with an environment that creates a love of learning. Foster creativity and promote positive social/emotional development in a play-based center practicing emergent curriculum. Join an incredible team that believes in laughter, the importance of fun, community-oriented activities and non-stop learning. Responsibilities include: love, nurture and respect every child as a unique individual; develop a positive relationship with parents and communicate with them on a daily basis; contribute ideas to weekly curriculum and monthly staff meetings; and provide a safe, clean and positive classroom environment. Lund's Preschool is a collaborative and supportive team of educators and daily planning time is available. The right candidate will be passionate, inspired and committed to working with a dedicated group of professionals. Among many things, Lund values: imagination, curiosity, exploration and discovery. Bachelor's degree in early childhood education (or related field) and experience working with children and families required.

LEAD COUNSELOR

Full-time position working primarily 8am-5pm Monday through Friday, with one daily evening shift weekly. Lead Counselor will provide parenting and life skill education and support as well as emotional assistance to pregnant adults, parenting women and their children in a transitional housing program. The Lead Counselor serves as primary weekly daytime representative for the program, and acts as liaison for multiple other partner agencies interacting with this program and clients. Excellent opportunity to participate in a home approach to support young families and coordination of services and resources. Bachelor's degree in human services related field or life years relevant experience required. Ability to work both with children and independently; knowledge of community resources to support young families; and flexibility are a must. Solid attention to detail; ability to multi-task; and strong written and verbal communication skills required.

RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR

Evening, Weekend, and Awake-Oversight Shifts: FULL- AND PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE Counselors provide crucial parent education and life skill support to pregnant and parenting women and their children in a residential treatment setting. Shifts include evening, awake overnight and weekend hours; ideal for those with alternative schedules and night shifts. Minimum of Bachelor's degree in human services related field and experience providing care to young children; ability to multi-task; work in fast-paced environment; flexibility and adaptability required. Looking for a candidate who is a quick problem solver and able to work independently during non-traditional hours. Experience working in residential treatment setting preferred. Valid driver's license required. Shift differential offered. Great opportunity to work with a strong team of professionals in a fun and fast-paced environment. Ongoing training opportunities available. Starting \$14-\$16 per hour plus shift differential for certain hours. Sub positions also available.

To apply, please submit cover letter and resume to:
Human Resources, PO Box 4009 Burlington, VT 05408-4009
Fax: 802-860-6519 email: employment@lundvt.org



CCS

Champlain Community Services

CCS is a growing, not for profit human service organization with a strong emphasis on employee and consumer satisfaction.

Community Inclusion Facilitators

We are currently offering several benefited part time positions supporting folks in the community and at their workplace. This is an excellent job for applicants entering human services as well as those looking to continue their work with people.

We would love to have you have during this exciting time of growth!

If you are interested in joining our supportive team and making an impact on the lives of others, and your letter of interest and resume to Karen Chelchowski, staff@ccs-vt.org.

Champlain Community Services

512 Troy Avenue

Colchester, VT 05446

(802) 656-0581

resumes

621

University of Vermont HEALTH NETWORK

Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital

HVAC Technician

CVPH offers a competitive salary package with industry health and retirement benefits, paid time off, continuing education incentives, employee discounts and more!

Requirements

- High School Diploma
- Vocational training in HVAC and refrigeration trades
- HVAC drivers license
- 3+ years experience in required trade or profession
- HVAC certification (ASHRAE preferred)

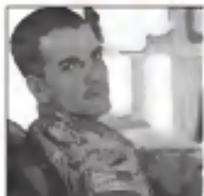
Responsibilities

- High maintenance on all assigned equipment
- Maintain proper use, exercises, and inspects equipment
- On call as needed
- Install, disassemble, repair, control and maintain equipment
- Maintain equipment logs

Apply at UVMHealth.org/CVPHCareers

Review post of your patient care certified items, when we will not yet complete
prior to final and regular hiring of applicants and employees to our communities

Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V/H/D/V
Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V/H/D/V
Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V/H/D/V
Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V/H/D/V



The University of Vermont
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Advance your CAREER

Certificate Programs in STEM 2 years or less

www.uvm.edu/certificateprograms



Career Opportunities

Join Champlain Housing Trust's Property Management team in Burlington and serve the affordable housing needs of a diverse group of people.

TWO POSITIONS

Resident Relations Coordinator

Be responsible for several functions for the Property Management and Customer Relations Departments including processing initial applications and paperwork. Carry out various activities/projects as communication with the Property Management staff focusing on improving residents' customer service experience by providing more up-to-date information, improving the application process, providing a Resident Assistance Program using the internet, facilitating education, etc., and ensuring that new customers transition to reflect the more customer service approach. This position requires a Bachelor's degree in Residential/Office/Commercial, or equivalent with experience required along with excellent communication, processing, typing, and spreadsheet program skills; good telephone manner; record keeping, skills and public relations skills.

Maintenance Technician

Perform a variety of maintenance tasks including painting, cleaning, light maintenance, general maintenance and snow removal. Experience in property planning, electrical, general maintenance required. Should be self motivated with independently or as part of a team for prevention, control and innovation to a leadership based model of maintenance controlled and permanently reliable housing. Reliable transportation and criminal background check required.

CHT is a socially responsible employer offering a competitive salary commensurate with experience. Our benefit package includes training, health insurance, vacation, building such items: 403(b) dividends and life insurance. Submit a cover letter and resume to: Attention CHT to Human Resources, Champlain Housing Trust, 87 King Street, Burlington, VT 05401 or email HR@champlainhousingtrust.org. We phone calls, please.

Equal Opportunity Employer. CHT is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other protected class.



Women's Small Business Program (WSBP) Director
Help empower women with the resources and resources to make informed decisions about business ownership. The WSBP Director is a dynamic, passionate and organized leader responsible for coordination of all aspects of the business program, delivery, leadership, outreach and engagement, recruitment, reporting, evaluation, and program evaluation. The position is 32 hours/week and includes some evening and weekend hours.

Administration and Hospitality Manager

Administrative support for the Executive Director, Board of Directors, Development and Communications Director and Program Staff. The Manager sets the tone of ethical responsibility for all who engage the organization. The ideal candidate is a naturally organized, highly adaptable individual with great care and ease, has excellent communication skills with a high level of personal accountability. The position is 32 hours/week, M-F, with some evening and weekend hours.

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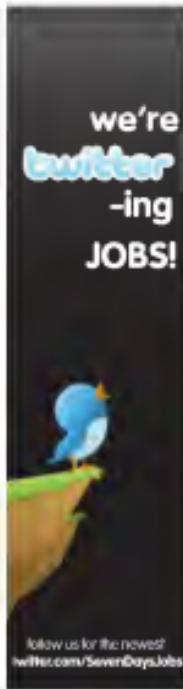
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The State of Vermont

PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER

Department of Mental Health -
Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital
Psychiatric social work of a professional level involving the provisions of social work services as part of a clinical treatment team at the DMH treatment facilities. Provide services to a client population which includes those who are unable to function in the community because of severe symptoms of mental illness and/or other handicaps. Significant collaboration with staff of other disciplines is involved in the formulation and implementation of a total treatment plan for clients, both in treatment facilities and after release. Master's degree in social work or a closely related field required. LCSW preferred. For more information, contact Tracy Moore at tracy.moore@state.vt.gov. Reference Job ID# 618305. Location: Berlin. Status: Full time. Application deadline: January 4, 2015.

OMH ACTIVITY THERAPIST

Department of Mental Health -

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital
Join our team of professionals as a DMH Activity Therapist providing group activities and individual support to adults with serious mental illness. Facilitate groups to promote wellness and recovery, as well as skills for self regulation, and work with a multidisciplinary team to set goals and measure progress. Must either be an RN or possess a bachelor's or master's degree in psychology, counseling or a related field. This is a full-time position, Thursday through Monday, 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Mark Hollerbach at mark.hollerbach@state.vt.gov. Reference Job ID #618306. Location: Berlin. Status: Full time. Application deadline: January 4, 2015.

To apply you must use the online job application at careers.vermont.gov. For questions related to your application, please contact the Department of Human Resources, Recruitment Services at 802.469.6700 (voice) or 802.250.0187 (TDD/Video Service). The State of Vermont is an equal opportunity employer and offers an excellent total compensation package.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE, PEOPLE!



Seven Days supported these local organizations and initiatives through event sponsorship and subsidized advertising in 2015.

We encourage our readers and advertisers to give generously to local causes that keep Vermont healthy, connected and entertained.

Short on cash? Volunteering your time and talents also counts. Already giving? Spread the love and recruit a friend to match your generosity.

ACADEMY AWARDS

'American Moderns' exhibit at Shelburne Museum
Burlington City Hall Park concert series, Festival of Roots, Holiday Artist Market, 'Old Land and Local' exhibit, Summer Artist Market, 'Taking Pictures' exhibit
SECOND Vt. chance Festival and Giveaway Identity Project
Burlington Book Festival
Burlington Discover Jazz Festival
Burlington Wine & Food Festival
Champlain Mini-Maker Faire
Cleystock
Co-Operated Festival
Eat by Northeast
FlynnFest
Green Mountain-Comedy Festival
Green Mountain Film Festival
Hack it!
Halloween Havoc
The Kids Are Alright
Kingman County Productions
Magic Hall, Mandi-Sue, HenryFest
Night of the Living Dead
Octoberfest, Well to Cancer

Over the Edge for the Flynn

Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics Vermont
Run for Empowerment
The Islamic Center HARVEST FESTIVAL
South End Art Hop
Stowe Car Classic
Stowe Wine & Food Classic
Taftoz to Clark Taftoz
Vermont Brewers Festival
Vermont Business Expo
Vermont International Film Festival
Vermont Shakespeare Company
Vermonts Vermont contest
Vermont Metro batley
Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association
Flower Show
Warren Miller Entertainment's Chasing Shadows
Yagle on Church Street

SEVEN DAYS

sevendaysvt.com

On Mountain Road, the Hin of the Wood from opened a stout cold brew beer bar, Doe Pond, in August. It joined the Bench — opened in late 2014 by the folks behind Waterbury's Reserve Restaurant & Tap Room — in serving inspired gastro-pub fare and a river of local craft ales.

The summer, Michael and Laura Klein of Michael's on the Hill took over filling Crop Bistro & Brewery. In November, they renamed the place Silverline Brewing, hopped up the menu and empowered brewmaster Will Olson to get even more creative in the brewery.

Meanwhile, Susan Italiano Specialties opened in June, offering long-simmered Bolognese, fettuccine, tortellini, meatballs, and eggplant au gratin for takeout or sit-down service, as well as imported Italian meats, cheeses, antipasti and wines.

Then, two more bars materialized — nearly Stone Wine & Cheese began offering glasses and snacks at their Wine Bar in July, while Waterbury's Cork Wine Bar & Market opened its natural wine-focused Bistro location this fall. Both after-light snacks, gorgonzola cheese boards and dozens of wines by the glass.

And there's more to come. The new year will bring Bowl Bowl, a new "boutique bowling lounge" with gourmet snacks, craft beer and cocktails. Elsewhere in town, the owners of the Trapp Family Lodge (whose brewery, von Trapp Brewing, doubled its production capacity this year) plan to open a Bavarian-style beer hall before fall foliage looks in.

Troubling Trend

Regional farm-to-table restaurants close

The ugly underbelly of all this shiny growth is that we saw so many of Vermont's loveliest restaurants quit the business in 2015.

Former Seven Days senior food writer Alice Lewis wrote about the phenomena, at length, in September, just after Burlington's Bluestone Tavern closed, but more restaurants continued to fold through the end of the year. In November, Seven Days food contributor Susanna Pedersen closed her Montpelier tasting room spot, Salt — though she continues to host occasional meals, including one for New Years. Susanna Pedersen's reasons were many and complex, but in short, she told Lewis, "I'm not

sure the way I want to be in the restaurant business is the most viable way to be in the restaurant business." By "the way I want to be," she meant using exclusively local, ethically sourced products in her cooking. Ouch.

Silver Lining

Flip Flopping at the Innovation Center of Vermont

It was a disappointment when Bluebird Coffee Shop closed in the South End Bar page — Stewie & Co. took over the place in October. It brought Owen Hippa's goozy, chianto-smothered breakfast tacos, superlatively coffee from Bros Coffeeworks and baked goods by Judith Laramore of Williston Coffee Shop.

Bonus points to brewhouse owners Andrew Burke and Tim Green for opening the fantastic new cafe in one year. And for sharing the second of these spaces, at the top of the Winooski traffic circle, with Vivid Coffee roaster Ben Shafley, who turns some of the clearest beans on site.

Which brings me to...

Best Beverage Trend

Micro-batch coffee

It seems like every time I turn around, I notice another broad-new tiny coffee roastery. In the fall of 2014, Magdalene Van Dusen started roasting single-source beans at Iron Contractors on Burlington's Pine Street, and this year those fratty, nutty, torro-specific beans started turning up everywhere. It's the best.

In addition to those, Scott Koenig (of Three Penny Taproom, Mad Dog Two and Male Bar) and Ross Evans launched Carter Roasting last spring. And the guys behind broad-new Upper Fox Beer in Tunbridge took their own beans to Pine Branch Coffee, while the folks at Belcampo Bakery in East Calais resort to Bahamian Coffee Roasters. And I'm sure there are others I'm not even aware of yet.

What's more, cold brew has been a thing for a while, but you could only get it at a few places in Vermont — until now. In 2015, Death Before Decaf opened Northern Exposure Cold Brew in, well, its bottled form at retailers around Chittenden County. And many local restaurants started making cold brew in-house, using the fantastic fresh beans noted above.

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Biggest Bummer

Death of a restaurateur

While 2015 was a good year for dining overall, it wasn't without setbacks. In July, Vergennes Restaurant Group chef-owner Michel Mâche dropped dead of a heart attack, leaving his many restaurants without a clear path forward. The chef's staff — many of whom had been with him for years — picked up the pieces with surprising grace. Still, the loss continues to echo, leaving regrets for what could have been. Mâche planned to continue opening new restaurants at a breakneck pace, and we all would have been better (lol) for it.

Natural Boon

Tree fruits

Any Vermont fruit grower will tell you 2015 was a bountiful year for tree fruits. The summer was wet and warm, with weeks of sun between showers, and the trees responded with plump, crisp apples, pears, peaches, cherries and plums in a remarkable abundance. Vermont's growing flock of cider makers spent the fall busily gathering the bounty for their fermenters — from local trees along back roads and the increasing number of orchards growing batavia and "indigenous" fruit varieties. Which means 2016 is already shaping up to be a great year for drinking, as those ciders start hitting the market next fall.

Weirdness

Cuisine, Burlington

In September, Aspinio Nacido Shop owners Sandy and Grace King started lending walls and Taiwanese specialties onto a mezzanine bar in the Burlington Town Center mall. Patrons grab dishes that look appealing out of their heads. I still can't quite wrap my head around it.

Fastest Flop

Green Mountain Diner

Green Mountain Diner opened in Rutland on August 21. The idea was nice — family-friendly breakfast food made with local products and served at affordable prices. These are laudable goals in a working-class town. But the restaurant was located in the former Rutland House of Pizza space, where *Rebuild* owner Christian "Che" Cameron had converted ramen in January 2014. The place had been empty



ever since. Towels were reluctant to enter, and those who did reported poor service and cold, oily, yucky food and even feces. On October 28, owner and chef Ed Morrison announced on Facebook that the diner was closed owing to "plumbing issues." It hasn't reopened.

Pop-up Pleasures

Secret feasts and adventure dinners

On Labor Day weekend, Hotel Vermont chef Doug Poore teamed up with Stowaway Spirits, Shambala Distillery, Vermont Ciderworks and the Basin Harbor Club to offer a special, one-night-only adventure meal. Participants at a location that wasn't named until the day of. Their hosts handed them cocktails made with Stowaway's phenomenal barrel-aged gin (justly the year's best new Vermont-made spirit), then they all boated a boat ride in a remote, candlelit cove on Lake Champlain. Then, Poore treated everyone to a sunset picnic of oysters on the half shell and grilled delights.

In a similarly celebratory vein, this fall, Colchester's Greenfield Mystery launched a series of "secret" feasts in its owners' property in Swanton. Massive consumption of slow-roasted meat beside bonfires ensued.

We May Never Write About This Again

Beve's Café

One of Chittenden County's biggest ongoing food stories of 2015 began with the news that, after 25 years of serving pasta on Pearl Street, the Beve family was exiting the restaurant business.

First, weirdness — in early September — that Beve's old school Italian joint would close on December 28. A month later, the paper published a news feature on owner Dick Beve's role in Bernie Sanders' rise to political prominence. A month after that, we reported an local architect Luca Manica Lanza hoped to lift the restaurant building off its foundation and move it to a remote location. In December, Beve's announced that it would construct a plant in Milton to produce its line of pasta. Just last week, I interviewed Martha Snyder, who owned tables at Beve's for almost 40 years.

She'll close the place, and as will its patrons — the Queen City has lost yet another restaurant where cocktails are \$4 and pasta plates are cheap and happy. And that's all I have to say about that. ☺

Contact: ahensh@sevendaysvt.com



Greenhouse Kitchen owner
Mary Alice Profitt says



Looking Forward

Dreams for 2016

We can't wait to see what the new year has in store. Enjoy this list of goals from our readers.

As a reminder, we know that length of time of the Greenberg chat doesn't mean anything, and Rob Donnelly is plotting a weekly local directive. Monday it's the McWayne, the downtown Burlington Will Lamborghini and the mysterious agency. David said my best guess is that whatever he does, serve well to fit the bill.

With the exception of the don't-ask-for-a-friendship-buddy-wacky element — Mexican food in this state? Again, don't worry. I'm not holding my breath.

However, I am looking forward to cooking my frogs with their Memorial Day barbecue instruments at Westville's All-Tools Tent. And I have a good hunch that All Tools' partners Joe Hansen (former Vermont state senator) and Karen Hansen (a restaurateur — lots of whom have their houses which is basically Santa's houses) will make that happen, come hell or high water.

Greenhouse Kitchen owner Mary Alice Profitt says she hopes to launch dinner service soon. So does Terri Hayes, owner of the Redhouse Inn, which has a growing list of daily-style fare, including fresh chilis and soufflés, and stay-and-dine options.

Finally, to her credit, she may start serving treats such as her Greenhouse River Road Dining on March 18th, bringing the barbecue to the front door. Profitt says she's been getting the respect at Maple Hill Brewing under Matt Cohen (now off at Mad River Brewing) with a plan to bring him in to help offload her inventory of Woodstock's Invitational in Burlington in March.



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JAN 13 | THEATER



A Pirate's Life

Ahoy, matey! *Landlubbers* dive into danger on the high seas in a National Theatre Live broadcast screening of *Pirates of the Caribbean*. When an innkeeper's granddaughter named Jess, played by Paup Verrier in a gender-role-reversing twist on the tale, meets a similar asturie bearing a chest of faires, a perilous adventure ensues. Costarring Arthur Darvill as Long John Silver, Raymon Gervais' adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's swashbuckling story "keeps alive the wit and excitement of the book," according to *the Guardian*. Stevenson's salty seafarers invade the big screen at Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. Mon, 8 p.m. \$25. montheat.org

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

Wednesday, January 13, 7:30 p.m., at Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. \$10-\$25. montheat.org

Laugh Riot

With a stand-up comedy career spanning more than two decades, Jim Breuer will serve up fresh helpings of humor. After cutting his teeth on the New York City club circuit, Breuer's chip came in as a major way. He scored a regular spot on "Saturday Night Live," followed by his role alongside Roseanne, Chippendales in the iconic 1994 women's flick *Half-Baked*. These days, the die-hard New York Mets fan hosts a podcast covering everything from the favorite baseball team in his longtime marriage (that would be *baseball*). Audience members laugh until they cry when the "Goon" gagster dishes out his uncanny impersonations and home-baked humor in part of his *Marriage, Warrior* tour.

JIM BREUER

Thursday, January 13, 8 p.m., at Lebanon Opera House in Lebanon. NH. \$25-\$49. lebanonoperahouse.org
Fri., Friday, January 14, 8 p.m., at Glastonbury at the Beer Lodge, Glastonbury, Connecticut. \$35-\$45. beerlodgesat.com
and Saturday, January 15, 8 p.m., at Penobscot Theatre in Bangor. \$30-\$75. penobscottheatre.org

JAN 7-9 | COMEDY



JAN 6 | TALKS



Words to Live By

In a 2011 interview with Reading Rainbow, acclaimed author Katherine Paterson encouraged parents to experience literature with their kids since "Diving the Harry Potter phenomenon is a shining example." The Vermont-based writer argued that reading aloud at a family dinner is a lifelong love of words, and she should know: A mother of four and a two-time Newbery Medal winner for her children's novels *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jacob Have I Loved*, she has introduced many a youngster to the world of books. Paterson lays out the importance of literacy in the Vermont Humanities Council's *First Wednesdays* because "Reading for the Love of the World."

KATHERINE PATERSON

Wednesday, January 6, 7:30 p.m., at Glastonbury Historical Library in Glastonbury, Conn. Info: 860-652-2000. vermonthumanities.org

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calendar

2010-11 2011

WEINER WELLNESS GAMES - ROLL FOR FERTILITY - Running from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the UVM Health Center, 855-625-1200. Registration fee: \$10. Info: 855-625-1200.

holidays

CHRISTMAS AT THE FISH - See 860-30

WILD LIGHTS FESTIVAL - See 860-30

events

THE MONSTERS: A PREHISTORIC ADVENTURE - See 860-30

immigration

CHAMBERS OF ETHNIC CONVERSATION - Performers, local experts, practice the language at a casual drop-in event. Perform Free. Library that day. Details. Free. Info: 855-3000.

ipyogt

THE LITERACY WORKSHOP GROUP - Creative storytelling and research projects and performances on a one-of-a-kind environment. Rock Center, Vermont, 855-444-1400. Free. Info: 855-3000.

lectures

PURE COUNTRY RANCH - Pure Country Ranch hosts food and drink tasting at the UVM Farm on Saturday, Dec. 11, 10-12 p.m. Free. Info: 855-3000. Free. Info: 855-3000.

SWING WESTERN RIDING - The 10th annual "Swing for the Fence" competition is set for Saturday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: 855-3000.

minimarts

MINIMARTS: KEY TO A PEACEFUL HOLIDAY BREAK - See 855-3000.

aptartiles

WINTER SUMMER DEMO - Winter accessories and dual purpose items. Located at Sutton Valley Barns, 855-3000. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 855-3000.

TELL A FRIEND - Tell a friend to a friend and receive \$100 off the cost of a new winter coat. Info: 855-3000.

WINTER'S PICKUP SOCCER - Quick, friendly games of varying levels. Bring a soccer ball.

Info: 855-3000.

theater

MARY POPPINS - See 860-3000.

venues

WALKING WOMEN'S POETRY GROUP - Read written works to honor women's rights. Info: 855-3000.

MON.4

community

PUBLIC MEETINGS - Come to a town meeting or a special meeting to discuss budget for your town. Meeting rooms: Williston Town Hall, 855-3000.

environment

WARMING FORESTERS - Earth, air, fire, water and snow provide the natural winter energy source for passive heating and cooling. Information: Arts Burlington 1-800-300-1200.

Info: 855-3000.

SALSA WORKSHOP - Transition from the techniques of salsa dancing to the more complex and energetic one. North Free Studio 4, Burlington. Info: 855-3000.

film

SAVING THE ART OF AIRPLANE - See 855-3000.

prescribe

PHARMA-CLUB - See 860-3000.

petfit & fitness

BIRTHING FROM WITHIN: PAIN CONTROL - PRACTICE: Self-hypnosis involving conscious contact between partners support a strong, mind over the body. Class: Hypno Birth Control. Burlington. Info: 855-3000.

SKIN TREATMENTS: STRETCH & MELT

CLARISSES - Licensed beautician offers stretch and melting treatments with pure organic essential oil. 855-3000.

MAINTAIN - See 855-3000.

POOTRALLI: HOLIDAY - See 860-3000.

PREMATRIAL WORKSHEET - See 855-3000.

SPUFF - See 855-3000.

RENEWING COMMUNITY FOEDA - See 855-3000.

SWIM - See 860-3000.

events

CLIMBERS: CHAMBERS: PLAY & STAY STYL - STYL: Climbers and boulders continue to emerge as unique, safe and sustainable ways to build buildings and playgrounds. Hypnotic Play & Stay, Burlington. Info: 855-3000.

SEA MONSTERS: A FANTASTIC ADVENTURE - See 855-3000.

WINTER'S HOLIDAY - Clothing discounted at 50% through Dec. 11. Info: 855-3000.

WINTER'S HOLIDAY ALUMNI GEMMELLE - See 855-3000.

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TUE.5

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Info: tinyurl.com/292929**SWING IN THE AGE OF AIRPLANES** See tinyurl.com/292929**gymnastics****GYROGY CLIMB** See tinyurl.com/292929 7 p.m.**Health & fitness****BRANDON FITNESS & ROLL CAMP** 1400-1800 317-7000**Get fit** 10-week endurance training and 10 days of adventure. Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**ESSENTIAL OILS & ESSENCES** Free tasting, mixing, and learning for beginners. Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**FLYING SWINGERS** Music projects for the whole family. Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**FLYING SWINGERS** Music projects for the whole family. Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**FLYING SWINGERS** Music projects for the whole family. Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**FLYING SWINGERS** Music projects for the whole family. Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**FLYING SWINGERS** Music projects for the whole family. Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**FLYING SWINGERS** Music projects for the whole family. 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Info: tinyurl.com/292929**WED. 6****CONFIRMATION****REFUGEE STORY DANCE WORK PARTY** See tinyurl.com/292929**WED. 6** **CONFIRMATION** A positive new confirmation program combining faith development and involvement in service projects. Montague United Methodist Church, 10:15 a.m. Free. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**dance****APRILIA PARTIES** See tinyurl.com/292929**DRIP IN HIP-HOP DANCE** See tinyurl.com/292929**etc.****TURBINE WORLDSIM** Communication games encourage participants to play with one another. Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**film****CHILD WITH A PEARL EARRING AND OTHER****TALES FROM THE MAURITSHUIS** (Dutch) An educational film in the "Immersive Experience" series. Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**SWING IN THE AGE OF AIRPLANES** See tinyurl.com/292929**gymnastics****GYROGY CLIMB** See tinyurl.com/292929**Health & fitness****GRANDE RIVER GOURMET** See tinyurl.com/292929**ESSENTIAL OILS FOR SUPPORTING A HEALTHY IMMUNE SYSTEM** Participants learn about the benefits of essential oils and how to use them. Call 734-930-3664. 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Info: tinyurl.com/292929**TELETHON** See tinyurl.com/292929**agents****WOMEN'S PICKUP BASKETBALL** See tinyurl.com/292929**ALUMNA XTRALIA & GOURMET DINING** Local mommies team up for "Mandy's Lemonade 8th Annual Mardi Gras" at the University of Michigan's Michigan Union, 3-6 p.m. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**HELEN GOSSETT** Indigenous peoples' resilience and strength. Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**THE JAZZ CONCERT** The University of Michigan Jazz Ensemble, 7:30 p.m. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**"Shall We Go On?" The Gershwin Musical** (Drama) Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**OUTDOOR CONCERT** The Gershwin Musical (Drama) Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**OUTDOOR CONCERT** The Gershwin Musical (Drama) Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**OUTDOOR CONCERT** The Gershwin Musical (Drama) Call 734-930-3664. Info: tinyurl.com/292929**OUTDOOR CONCERT** The Gershwin Musical (Drama) Call 734-930-3664. 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Who is speaking up for Vermont utility customers?

Vermont's utility regulatory system is badly broken and needs fixing. The Department of Public Service, which should be protecting ratepayers, works too closely with Vermont utilities at the expense of ratepayers—putting your hard-earned money in jeopardy.

AARP knows that Vermont families can't afford a murky and complex system where they don't have a voice. That's why we're fighting for an independent public advocate that will speak up for Vermonters, putting ratepayers and small businesses first—not the state's well-financed utilities. But we need your help.

This holiday season, tell your local legislators to step up—enough is enough! Support the efforts underway to create an independent public advocate and make your voice heard.

To learn more and take action, go to
action.aarp.org/VT

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AARP Real Possibilities in
Vermont

Best of the Best

The top music of 2015, according to local scenesters

BY DAN BOLLES

Each December, Seven Days polls area musicians, club owners, talent buyers and others to find out which records rocked the ears over the previous year. We ask for their favorite local and nonlocal albums. (See our own top 10 Vermont albums on page 65.) As a bonus, we also ask for predictions of what might come to pass in the New Year. So here's the local scene as seen by the Bern Men: what they said.

REVEREND JACOBSON FAVORITE: "VIRGINIA HONEY JADE"

REPORTER PUBLIC RADIO

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: *Andrey Bernstein, Alright, Okay, Win*

BEST NONLOCAL ALBUM: *Kamasi Washington, The Epic*

PREDICTION FOR 2016: That someone

records *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, a nonfiction book by McCarthy's wonderful son of Civil War-era material. As James Brown would say, "Please, please, please."

KEVAN BROWN: IN YOUR EYES

L. BERNARD: *Ben Domenech & the Congregation, Reverend Ben Domenech & the Congregation*

M. *Parasol, Metal Parasol*

MIKE: Nikki Sixx turns Johnny's Women and shows up at my doorstep.

MR. CHARLES PRUDER WITH BLUES FOR BREAKFAST

L. *Luci D. Ditt*

M. *James Norman, Rosestone*

ME: When I had a house in the Burlington market somewhere!

SARAH STICKLE: ARTS MANAGER, ENDICOTTIAN, FIRST NIGHT BURLINGTON

L. *Modesta, The Dancer*

M. *Brett Wilson and the Neighborhood, Medicine*

ME: Jen Coone will have an early midlife crisis, begin wearing and washed jeans, prance and play on several hair-metal albums, and stand in front of Johnny's every night but Mondays, asking people, "Where did the good go, man?"

JOSHUA POLAND: WOMENNESTERS BIKER

DEBORA'S FAVORITE: *Country Roads*

L. *Reilly Ramie, County Roads*

M. *Vince Staples, Summerian/100*

ME: Signal Kitchen renovations from rustic to boutique badge land

BAO BURPON: THE WAY IT IS

L. *Maryse Smith, The Way It Is*

MIKE CROTHORPE OF DENVER HIGH-OF-GROUND

L. *Modesta, The Dancer* (though Maryse Smith is a tight corner-up)

M. *Wilco, Star Wars* (though Courtney Barnett is just as stony again for me)

ME: Donald Trump's policies for a career in hip-hop management

JEFF THOMSON: LATE SUMMER, JULY 16

MOVEMENT MYSTERY POINTS STATE & MAIN RECORDS

L. *Paula Plumb, Whistling*

M. *King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard, Quarantine!*

ME: The Burlington Round Table will be hugely successful and need to run eight and day to keep up with demand

MATT EQUATOR: TALENT PLATE, HIGH-DECODED RECORDS, MAKING PHONICS, THE MONKEY HOUSE

L. *Modesta, The Dancer*

M. *Dr. Dog, Dog at a Flemings Hotel*

ME: *Disco Phantom* will somehow deeper & deeper show in '16. Also, the sixth annual Making Windows festival is gonna be dope.

JASON COOLEY: BLACK BUTTER

L. *Rough Trade, M83 7-inch (I'm a big gay bitch)*

M. *Ali, You're Better Than That, Floating Points, Klaxons*

ME: The day I walk into City Market and don't hear Diven Hackney yell, "Hey, Cooley!"

KEVAN FARNHAM: POWERS

LEON DAVIS: CRITICAL DRIVE

L. *Utan Hackney, The Bar*

M. *Kendrick Lamar, To Pimp a Butterfly*

ME: Dennis Snider will drop a surprise LP with Killer Mike called Run the %*#

will sell considerably more copies than his full record, steering the presidency. Killer Mike will earn cabinet positions for all his support and will attend the White House's smoking policy to allow blues to be smoked in designated "bedroom"烟室。

BRUNN WIGGLE: BJORK PHANTOM

MAKING PHONICS

L. *Maryse Smith, The Way It Is*

M. *Unbroken Metal Orchestra, Metal-Lose*

ME: Off of Discos Phantom's prediction Killer Mike and Beastie Boys' debut their hot single at the Monkey!

MANHATTAN EASTERN HORNS TURNS

TIME

L. *Maryse Smith, The Way It Is*

M. *Sam Outlaw, Anywhere*

ME: I predict that Brian Nagle (aka DJ Disco Phantom, aka DJPL), while attempting to break his personal record for longest DJ set, will accidentally play a Kanye West song.

MILTON PARKER: MILTON PARKER AND THE GIMMICKS

L. *Francesca Blanchard, deer nation*

M. *Chvrches, Every Open Eye*

ME: Three words: Kai Wright exploded!



BEST OF THE BEST: B-FAD



The Madalisa

Is Madalisa? Is Not Madalisa.

The controversy has been raging for...at least a week or two. Are the **MEDIALIS**, the disco funk band that claims to have once traveled to Vermont from the 1970s and is headlining the Ratty Nod in Stowe on New Year's Eve, really just local dance-punk band **MADALISA**? But with such hair, so-thick-and-enhanced makeup?

In an official statement regarding the issue, Madalisa have vehemently denied the claim, despite the striking physical similarities between the two quintets and the hander names, and the fact that time travel violates all known laws of physics.

"We categorically deny that Madalisa is connected to the Medialis," the band wrote. "We do admit that the five members of the Medialis look a whole, whole lot like our five members — like a lot, lots. The resemblance is so striking that we can't blame our friends and fans for assuming that the Medialis are an alter ego band. We thought of this, a few weeks ago and created to have an awesome time playing party music from all over at events that call for epic, universally loved arena events such as weddings, private parties or a New Year's show at the Ratty Nod in Stowe with season's wishes in the works."

While that statement admitted most assumptions, not everyone was convinced. Newly unemployed rock journalist — and **LETTERMAN** red-hatted scroll columnist — **CHESTER BANDIS**, *Character*, who is best known for his definitive 2012

interview with Austin crockershanks — and in definitely not **Seven Days** article editor **SAVANNAH** — recently caught up with the Medialis' **VINCENT MANNERI** for the inside story.

CHESTER BANDIS: A lot of people have been saying that you guys are really just Madalisa in another outfit. However, Madalisa have **REALLY RELATED THE RUMOR**. For the record, can you confirm or deny that claim?

VINCENT MANNERI: As far as we were disturbed by people's claims that we hadn't time traveled from the '70s Everyone said that we were really a present-day band, Madalisa, that had created an underground act to play new kinds of music in new kinds of outfit and create existential confusion around themselves (during finally settled on a name after 14 or 15 tries). It's frustrating to be misunderstood.

But since we found out how handsome and charming all five members of Madalisa are, we've started thinking off about the confusion. *Character*, the band is so amazingly delightful on all fronts, delighted to a degree that seemed impossible and we wanted upon our current Madalisa hypothesis — that John F. Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe had quadruplets, and that one more son all of whom got in the wrong elevator at some point in early childhood and ended up in loving families in 1990s Vermont. Like us, they could have time

traveled in an elevator. Whenever they came from, they have impeccable taste. While preferring people to believe our narrative, we are forced to be inaccurately associated with Madalisa.

CHESTER BANDIS: What has surprised you the most about the year 2018? Cars? Music? Food? Yoga pants? The general aversion to lady hair?

VINCENT MANNERI: The strangest part about the transition has been seeing all of the people in 2018 looking at what we call Small Glowing Parts Rectangles. Nobody seems to be talking or going or getting groovy like they did back in the '70s. There's not nearly enough body hair for our tastes, both in terms of quality and quantity. The hats are just as good, though. In Bolge Land, it's a bit of a trade-off. Low downrange balaclava, but all of that is made up for at the grove. The fashions here are not as good.

CHESTER BANDIS: What sort of time machine are you guys driving?

VINCENT MANNERI: We arrived in the present as an elevator. Can't remember the exact model — think it was an Otis, possibly with gearless traction? Anyway, we got in this elevator at our show at the Philadelphia Spectrum arena in 1977 and, when the doors opened, it was 2018. It was a shock. The arena didn't exist anymore. We were expecting to see our headdresses on the Spectrums.

SOUNDBITES B-140

HIGHER GROUND



WED 12/29 *Lettuce*

SAT 1/5 *THE Subs* welcome **Badfish: A Tribute To Sublime**
Mighty High

THU 1/11 *Candyland*
Pete Cane

SAT 1/13 *SOY* The Post welcomes **Dixie Knowles**

TUE 1/16 *Delta Blue* **Four Keys N' Knives**
Cloud Sound, Jersey Skys

WED 1/17 *Yard & the Villains*

THU 1/18 *SOY* The P. Jackson **Banners**

SAT 1/20 *Monica Party* **featuring Brock Jordan & Zdenek Gabo of Twiddle**
Sister Shirley

SAT 1/27 *Make Veterans Count*
Sister Shirley Lee Thornton

JUST ANNOUNCED —

SAT 1/27 *Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue*
SOY The Post and Beyond
SOY Mighty High & The Moon
SOY Joe Miller

8 111 Main Street, Bellows Falls
802.229.2777
@highergroundvt
@highergroundvt

LiveCulture
VERMONT ARTS NEWS + VIEWS

For up-to-the minute news about the local music scene, follow **@highergroundvt** on Twitter or read the **Live Culture** blog at sevendaysvt.com/liveculture.



SPRUCE PEAK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



BEETHOVEN'S NINTH SYMPHONY

Presented by
Green Mountain
Mahler Festival

Saturday, January 10, 7:30PM

CHAD HOLLISTER BAND

Saturday, January 10, 7:30PM

NOBBY REED PROJECT

Saturday, January 24, 7:30PM

COMEDIAN ETTA MAY

Thursday, January 26, 7:30PM

ROMEO AND JULIET

By the State Ballet of Russia
Saturday, January 28, 7:30PM

**122 Hourglass Dr., Stowe
760-4634
SprucePeakArts.org**

Best of the Best

LLA MURKIN STAR, BULLS' WITTY UP-N-READY AND POP-UP BURLESQUE PARTY

L. The Lumberhead Bloks, *Tenderly My Paper*

LL. Aurora Day, *Chorus to the Ball*

new. The internet — the angry DJs and music producers — will revolt against SoundCloud (finally) and they will buckle under the pressure, abandoning their looming ad inserts and backing off their future copyright demands.

ERIN MARSH: THE HOSPITAL SAYS HI

L. Black Rabbit, *Red Flannel Flash*

LL. Wilson Star Wars

new. Greatful Dead cover bands will finally gain traction in Vermont and be able to get gigs and stuff!

LLA MURKIN: TALENT HUNTER VICTORY

L. Francesco Balsachord, *Dear Robert*

LL. Vulfpack, *Thrill of the Art*

new. Musical Auditoriums will get the review that every music lover wishes for and we'll not a whole new slew of music acts that previously couldn't fit in any room in Burlington.

ERIN MARSH

L. Blurred Thay Corse, *The Frack EP*

LL. Wilson Star Wars

2016. That Dost Jackson did not cancel her February date in Boston, and that I can fulfill my dream of seeing 102.

LLA MURKIN: ROUGH FRANCE

L. Henry Flaws, *Flawy Flaws*

LL. Ghoulsouls R'blah, *Star Stuf*

2016. A new Rough France album.

ERIN MARSH: LAMEEZY, YOUNGBLUE AND THE HOGGERS

L. The Igans, *Tympanum*

LL. Davidbow Bitch, *Wifha*

2016. *Empath* (On

new. Kevin Bloem (*Moon Machine*, *Photography*, *Raw Bloomed* and the *Static Circus*, *Radio Bern*) is gonna be doing something crazy for the Burlington music

community. After that, he may only have his radio show.

LLA MURKIN: HONORABLE

L. Kelly Riven, *Country Trucks*

LL. Randolph Lauer, *To Prep a Butterly*
2016. Butler John Mary will play at my wedding.

LLA MURKIN: CONGRATULATIONS, JEREMY TINK

THE LEAD HOST

L. Francesco Balsachord, *Dear Robert*
LL. The Deslondes, *The Deslondes*
2016. The Light Club Lamp Shop has grown so fast, in the heart of Burlington, we'll soon be well.

LLA MURKIN: TWO FRANZES FEINER, WIMM

L. Black Rabbit, *Red Flannel Flash*, *The Mentor* Sets 7/14, 7/15

LL. Iron Maiden, *The Book of Souls*
2016. With Morse Smith moving on to Philadelphia and Kat Wright is the Indonesian Solo Stand playing more and more and of new shows, Marisa Berriosca will release a stunning album and grab the title of queen of the Queen City.

LLA MURKIN: TALENT HUNTER, MARYAH

L. Modafax, *The Stoer*

LL. Little Bridges, *Getting There*

2016. All of my predictions would make me sound like a hater than I usually am, but I hope vinyl sales will continue to grow exponentially.

LLA MURKIN: THREE, HALEY BUTTON, JAMES

AKARAKA SUPERHERO

L. Michael Chorney & Hollar General, *Blindsight Light* — *aaaaa*, I wish I had my vinyl copy (Dope Bast, Chorney)

LL. Randolph Lauer, *To Prep a Butterly* — *aaaaa*, I wish I had the vinyl for that. (Dope Bast, finally)

2016. I predict that all my vinyl wishes will come true.

LLA MURKIN: HAMMA, HAMMA, HAMMA

L. Maryse Smith, *The Way It Is*

LL. Randolph Lauer, *To Prep a Butterly*
2016. Frank Ocean will still not release new music. ☺

artistic expression is best valued in a non-transnational setting and will prominently choose to supplement market-based musical expenses with other forms of support.

LLA MURKIN: HAMMA, HAMMA, HAMMA

RECORDED STATE & OTHER RECORDS

L. Anxiety Doctor, *Deus 2015*

LL. Deslondes Boys, *Full Comersum*
new. Vermont will become the “com-writing” gateway for a wide range of many excellent artists. I’m crossing my fingers that Springsong at least drives through for some shows. Or flies over. Or flies near.

Vermont.

CAROLINE O'CONNOR: VIBORA, STARRY BETTY

L. Michael Chorney & Hollar General,

Blindsight Light

LL. Marla Vile, *Wave the gun down*
new. More Vermont bands will start incorporating backup dancers during their shows.

TAYLOR SMITH: CREDIT BLUE

L. And the Kids, *There Is Both Grief*

LL. Mountain Original Broadway Cast Recording (*Go on*, *Fight me on this*)
2016. Chris DeGraw will be the Grammy he so soundly deserves. Caroline Rose and Abbie Renzi take up for a Indian collection of country-rock duds.

LL. Gangsta's Paradise, *Surrounds*
new. Gangsta's Paradise and *Surrounds* are extremely irreverable

compositions and flatten them to surrealism. The Dufford Brothers create the Oscar-winning soundtrack for a snarky, melancholy indie film. Francesco Balsachord becomes huge in Europe.

LL. Robert Renzi, *Mark Renzi and Pepe*
2016. Renzi's focus is to become *Surrounds*, the lowest, leastest folk trio in history.

LLA MURKIN: HAMMA, HAMMA, HAMMA

L. Maryse Smith, *The Way It Is*

LL. Randolph Lauer, *To Prep a Butterly*

2016. Frank Ocean will still not release new music. ☺

soundbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 81

so far but instead saw a vacant lot in Philly. We are currently raising money to build a new time machine. We're not picky about the type. We just want to get back to the '70s for fundie reasons, toothpick reasons and some other reasons, as well.

CB: Do you have plans to stick around for a while, or will you be time traveling on after the *Party* Mad show? If so, where?

VM: Our goal is to get back to the '70s as soon as possible. It was nice there. We were famous. People looked after us—cleaned up messes, disposed of our used toothpicks. It brought us new toothpicks, packed up toothpicks that had fallen on the floor and handed them back to us because we weren't done.

CB: Last question: What's the key to a good fundie party?

VM: Like anything, a good fundie party is only as good as the choices. And the birds. Gotta have the birds. Having a quality pot that maintains a constant temperature is key. Otherwise, the oils are likely to separate out from the chosen(s) and cause all sorts of mess on your gold chains and/or chest hair and/or box of toothpicks. A classic variation is to use the Swiss cheese Raclette and add boiled parsnips into the fold. As even cleverer variations, it's to have a small team of experts that's making sure all of the ordinary tasks are taken care of, so you can focus on the most important part of "fundie party"—the party. Back in the '70s we had that.



What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?

Thanks, Chester Bumppo staff, as always.

Moving on, the Medallions aren't the only big show on the docket for New Year's Eve. The local scene is positively brimming with fun stuff to ring in 2016.

Local as in **OLIVE BURRABANTS**, headlining a NYE bash at the Massey House in Winooski. That's local in more than its own. But the real story is the return of local favorite **WEIRD SKIN PUNK**—**WEIRD SKIN**, who open the show following a year-long absence. Welcome back, guys.

Speaking of fun, **LAND OF THIEVES' 2016 EP** *Madly* had a lot of a classic '70s vibe amid the band's typical fast-paced, bombastic Thrill. They'll be getting horny (and thirsty) at Nectar's. However, if reggae is more your speed, head upstairs to Club Maracatu, where the **40 VASSA** crew celebrates nine years of fine grooves.

At the **Stoney Parade** in Burlington, head south from **JEAN PAPA** and at **STEAL WOLF**, present *A New Year's Eve Thriller*. No, it's not a mystery dinner theater—though that would be pretty cool. Rather, it's Papa displaying his phenomenal gongs to cover Michael Jackson's names.

Over at **Higher Ground** in South Burlington, local jam band **THEMUS** have ushered in the coming three-eight NYE. Balloons out. That's great for the band and its legion of fans. Though I have to add that I'm a little miffed because I predicted **WEIRD SKIN** were most in



line. Still, I'm calling my 2016 short-term: The Medallions will somehow still be stuck in the future (or the present, I guess) and will be leading the **Brassons** with **Madala** this New Year's Eve.

Last but not least, **First Night** Burlington has a particularly strong local lineup this year. Highlights include **KAT WRIGHT & THE INSEPARABLE SOUL BAND**, **RAY VEGA & TIGRES FROM THE ROOKE DOWN**, **DESSERT CONVERSATIONS**, **THE FLAMENCO GOSSEL PROJECT**, **MIRELLA PUVAN FRANCESA**, **PLANETARIUM**, **PHYLIP RED HOT JAZZ**, **THE DUFFY BROTHERS**, **CHERRY PAUL**, **JOY RIBBERT** & **BRETT JAMES**, **DRACO INNOCENTZ**, **THE LEAH KARRINGSON BROS**, **OLIVE SKIN**, **ODIN GUY**, **PIET CANN**, **AGOURA RENDEZVOUS** and **Medallos**. (See? The Medallions can't possibly be *Medallos*.) Visit [bringitvt.org](http://www.bringingitvt.org) for specific venues and show times. Oh, and happy New Year!

(Disclosure: Rough Trade **WEIRD SKIN** is a Seven Days employee. Queen City Hot Club's **THEMUS** is the author's brother.) ☺



Listening In

A quick, 15-second read on any album, interview, artist, development, etc. This week:

EDWARD JONES (HONEY): I love **Paul McCartney**, **John Lennon**, **Elton John**, **Elton John** and **Elton John**.
BEACH BOYZ, **Elton John** (Dixie).
PAUL McCARTNEY, **Elton John**.
WALKING STICK, **Elton John**.

Watch something LOCAL this week.



THIS IS HOW LIBERTY DIES
 INTERVIEWED BY BODI PITT



BEST OF 2015
 INTERVIEW



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MARY FLYNN & PAUL GIBB VT 01-02
SALSA NIGHT
 w/ JAMI REED 10:00 PM

CLUB DOME VILLA
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REVIEW *this*

Imperfect 10

The best local recordings of 2015

BY DAN BOLLES



Why 10? Looking back on the voluminous number of Vermont recordings released in 2015, in an effort to divine which were "the best," that's the nagging question. Why 10? Sure, 10 is a round number. But it's obviously arbitrary. It's also frustratingly limiting, especially when you consider the sheer, record output in the local scene over the last several years. But it's not merely an issue of quantity that makes settling on a top 10 problematic. The quality of local music, across the board, is at an all-time high, for Ti's sake.

You could make any number of legitimate 2015 top 10 lists, choosing solely from the local rock scene. Indie darlings Villagers made a triumphant return with a career-best, whetting our appetite for next year's fall-fest Argonauts and a shiny new protocol for electro-rock on their debut. Phil Yates & the Affiliates' son was true on their sophomore record.

The Pilgrims shouldered with paunchy nostalgia. Henry Hines buried back to the heyday of grunge. Blahvals exploded classic indie jangle. Sleeping In rolled off with swooping shoegaze. Teenage sensations the Beat ran away with our hearts. Mystery Punks and bells and then godly.

The Traumatists unleashed a double dose of human-crushing robotic surf Gang of Thieves got hairy. The Igneus

got jazzy. Vultures of Culk got glossey. Does Service got doney. Apatone & got drunk. And Vedors signed off with a garagey alliteration firework.

Turning back the clock, proto-punk heroes Death offered something new on their third album of original material in 40 years. Ted kept the dance of the '90s alive with their first record in two decades. Drawingman's Jason Leonard released a good rock masterpiece but, in a sign of the times, did so via YouTube.

You could similarly make a compelling list of best composed solely of local folk, country and Americana. Old Sly delivered a cloudy EP of noisy twang. Eastern Mountains Tones showcased alternative reggae. The Leatherbound Books debut was tender and hopeful. Phlegmone vented west. Ted Frome left Nashville for the country. The Woodpeckers offered an unapologetic mosh or offbeat banjo talk. Forja Desi and the Mid-Nite Howbways dug into the vault for a comprehensive history retrospective.

From the trad scene, Pete's Posse served up a malingerous mix of folk, Dule and Dancy went waltzing. And Jonathan McLane unveiled a dreamy work.

As always, sugar magnates were well represented in 2015. Eric George distilled whiskey-imbled blues out with classic country. Shannen Bowley turned poet and whistler. Able Morn found solace in the shadows

Rock Williams took us to the woodshed. Kristina Styles went off the grid for her masterpiece. Parish Earth's Billy Sharf carried us home. Ryan Fader and Duago Koenig and godlike.

After a few lean years, 2015 was about to jazz fans. Vascular Andrey Berestov seduced on a winning blend. Hot Box Blency came out swinging with worldly fast. Gypsyska put Will Parsons' contemplative tone and found that it's still very much on board. The Socalites' Jimi Hand remained a timeless local classic. Georgia guitars. Kapital Guitars journeyed home along Will Ackerman's magnum road.

Experimental music enjoyed a similar renaissance in 2015. Gooch is now local imprint. Gooch Tapes and mysterious releases from Acehi Bovell and Harvey Bigman. Across the lake, Jimi Organic Cosmic Taps completed the next phase of... whatever it's they're planning. Brattleboro's Ambient made noise, and lots of it. Max Pearl customized to cerebral. And some weirdos Lawrence Walker & Our Bear to Cross sent us one final postcard from the edge.

Posthaste, after a brief respite, 2014's From the trad scene, Pete's Posse served up a malingerous mix of folk, Dule and Dancy went waltzing. And Jonathan McLane unveiled a dreamy work.

Posthaste, after a brief respite, 2014's

releases are rare. That didn't stop basso duo Hesler They Come from getting freaky on their debut EP.

Old friends are doing well in new places. From Brooklyn, Alpre glow closed the Vermont chapter of their story. In San Francisco, Guthrie Galois continued his stargazing King of Nowhere ruled in Northampton. Hess Zara explored the North from the Midwest. Captain Candy got reckless in Nashville. Upper Gelly Belts came down to Earth in Florida. Black Wagoner mellowed out in Portland, Ore.

Vermont's big names had big years. And the kids split time between Burlington and Northampton, causing the critics to turn to each other for a who-got-catchier Austin Mitchell instead face to a losing retrospective. They Atavist remastered the wheels. With from non Ryan Miller in Vernon, Castle deserved the secret to perpetual motion. And the clock struck midnight as the Nocturnals at Grace Notes won solo.

If you made a best-of list but with any combination of 30 albums from the preceding paragraphs, you'd get no argument from this editor. You'd also probably agree over the records you're listening to, much as I have in making my own. Still, having too many good options to choose from is a wonderful problem to have. So it is that I present the 10 albums that stood out to my ears over the past 12 months. Call them the "best," if you will. But I prefer to think of them simply as brilliant examples of another exceptional year in Vermont music.

TOP 10 LOCAL RECORDINGS OF 2015

MARINA, *The Boxes***MARYME SMITH**, *The Way It Is***MICHAEL CHERNEY & HILLIAN GENERAL**, *Unsung Songs***THE HUMMERS**, *Say No***BLACK HARRY**, *EastWestMech***FRANCESCA BLANCHARD**, *Dear Victoria***REVERENCE BACH DENKNER & THE COMBINATION**, *Reverence Bach Denkner & the Congregation***PATRICK PATE**, *White Clay***KELLY HAWK**, *Country Roads***CHRIS WIESEN**, *The Only Life That's Living*

GET YOUR MUSIC REVIEWED:

BY YOUNG AN INDEPENDENT ARTIST CREDITS: MARINA MUSIC BY YOUNG MARINA RECORDS; 1000

GUTHRIE GALOIS MUSIC BY GUTHRIE GALOIS; 11. THE HUMMERS MUSIC BY THE HUMMERS; 12. BLACK HARRY MUSIC BY BLACK HARRY; 13. FRANCESCA BLANCHARD MUSIC BY FRANCESCA BLANCHARD; 14. REVERENCE BACH DENKNER & THE COMBINATION MUSIC BY REVERENCE BACH DENKNER & THE COMBINATION; 15. PATRICK PATE MUSIC BY PATRICK PATE; 16. KELLY HAWK MUSIC BY KELLY HAWK; 17. CHRIS WIESEN MUSIC BY CHRIS WIESEN

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740-3111/ LEE FIELDS & THE EXPRESSIONS (SOUL)



Express Yourself

In an era when retro soul has become voguer, it's surprising to call **LEE FIELDS** a throwback. He's anything but. Fields has been crooning and bawling since the late 1950s — long before the likes of Mayer Hawthorne, Ryn Weaver and other modern soul reprobates were even born. Fields is the genuine article, a vibrant vestige of the heyday of vintage soul and R&B. His 2004 classic, *Reina Jean*, recorded with the black Keys' Dan Auerbach, captures that timeless sound and infuses classic bottom-heavy grooves with a hint of country swagger and rock grit. **LEE FIELDS & THE EXPRESSIONS** play a New Year's Eve bash at Artisian on Thursday, December 31. Local DJ **LUIS CALIFORNIA** opens.

740-3111

APRIL 10: BEEFY, 5 p.m., FREE.
Tenderloin (located 5 p.m., free).

Barney/Montpelier
MONTPELIER & BURLINGTON
CAFE: 10th Session, 8 p.m.,
concert

EXPANSION (SOUL): Expresso
Room (8-11 p.m., 7 p.m., \$5).
FOURTH STREET: 10 p.m., free.
WAGNER'S: 800 Main St., Hotel Bullock
Dinner (6-10 p.m., \$15-25), free.

atmosphere/vermont
4271932

INFLUENTIAL: Higher Frank Band,
7 p.m., \$10.

miss river valley/
BURLINGTON
THE RESERVATION RESTAURANT
1557 3rd Street: Asian fusion
Dinner (5-10 p.m., free).

mt.首先是山 area
CITY LIMITS: 24th Annual
international 8-gauge, free (day).

Linne's Garage Party with Goliath
Dinner (8-10 p.m.), free.

outside vermont
WAGNER'S: 800 Main St., Hotel Bullock
Dinner (6-10 p.m., \$15-25), free.

MON. 4

surfingheat

TRANSFORMERS: Family Night (4-8 p.m., \$10-20
4271938).

JET PLATE: Dance Video Broadcast
Night with Motley (8 p.m., free).
THEATRE: House Night, 7 p.m.,
free.

SUN. 3

Burlington

TRANSFORMERS: Family Night (4-8 p.m., \$10-20
4271938).

THEATRE: House Night, 7 p.m.,
free.

TUE. 5

TRANSFORMERS: Dance Video Broadcast
(8 p.m., free). **CLUB**: Club 427 (located 8 p.m., free).

Critical Match

Visiting art professionals bring perspective to the local scene

BY RACHEL ELIZABETH JONES

As many Vermonters know, small is beautiful. Yet small can also be limiting — particularly for artists, whose career visibility often depends on reaching and responding to broader audiences. “How do we get people [to Vermont] to see the work that’s being made here?” asks Burlington City Arts curator DJ Hilleman in a recent conversation with Seven Days.

When he arrived at BCA in 2012, Hilleman identified a need for opportunities for artists to meet with external galleries and arts professionals. And so BCA’s Visiting Critics Program was born. One of the curator’s early shows at the BCA Center, “Bent’s Taken” in 2013, included work on loan from the Progressive Art Collection. (Hilleman had previously worked for the Cleveland insurance company.) Hilleman brought Progressive curator and former colleague H. Scott Wostover to help for his BCA exhibit. Hilleman quickly recognized an opportunity to facilitate exchange between Wostover and local artists.

Hilleman refers to Wostover’s studio visit as a “quiet pilot” of the now-formalized series. The program aims to host three sets of artist-art professionals per year, each giving a free public lecture and visiting several art studios.

Artists who wish to participate are invited to submit work during an open call, and then both BCA and the visitor make their selections. Those who are chosen to meet with one critic are not eligible to meet with the one who visits immediately afterward, but they may otherwise apply as others as they like.

Most of BCA’s funding is allocated for the support of artists — as opposed to gallery owners, writers and the like — so, Hilleman says, the organization strives to maximize efficiency when introducing local artists to visiting critics. Fostering these relationships on a lean budget generally means multitasking.

Case in point: In summer 2014, BCA worked with Laura Bleriot, director of New York’s Ithaka gallery, to have a solo show at BCA for new-media artist Björn Schulte. Bleriot then returned to Burlington as a visiting critic in August, shortly after Schulte’s show ended. In January 2015, the Fleisher Museum of



“Bent’s Taken” by Steve Washington
Courtesy of Seven Days

HE ASKED SOME REALLY GREAT QUESTIONS.

ABBEY MEAKER

Art published the catalog *Starting Back* on Primo’s *Bernardine* website, which includes an essay by Fleisher director Jane Cohan confirming that this relationship came about through the Visiting Critics Program. “BCA has always been an incubator,” suggests Hilleman.

This year, the cycle of visits as far as we included columnist Heribert Levey and independent curator Ola Whalen. Levey, the founder of Brussels-based Heribert Levey Projects, and in November with Vermont artist Steve Washington, R. Elmer Katz, Abby Mealer and Sarah O’Donnell, and Sonja Tolok.

Whalen recently relocated to the Toronto area after spending years as an independent curator in southern Ontario, including work at the Ottawa Art Gallery. Her background is in contemporary art theory and anthropology. In Burlington last month, Whalen met with Kate Losell, Tora Lee Sungjung, Bob Sweetman and Mary Zampini.

Experiences with the visiting critics may differ, but participating artists uniformly express gratitude for the opportunity to see and be seen.

“It’s a lot of an outgrowth in terms of the art world,” says Washington. He maintains his studio practice while teaching art at UVM, and met with two other BCA visiting critics before seeing Levey this year. Of the program, he says, “It’s a good opportunity to meet with people that are doing their different cities and have different perspectives — it adds to the discourse of what’s happening here.”

Katz, who recently installed two public art commissions in downtown Burlington, says his visit with Levey gave him two things: “positive feedback and outside experience with our language.” Additionally, Katz suggests that a non-local critic can more easily offer honest feedback. Levey, he says, usually critiques aspects of the sculptor’s work that he thought were not working.

Meaker and O’Donnell met with Levey not about their individual work but about their ideas for a series of media installations called “Overnight Projects.” The critics, they say, helped them work out a game plan. “He asked some really great questions,” Meaker says. “He helped to look at the potential aspects.”

Sungjung showed Whalen a wide variety of her work, but says that “the most powerful part” of the visit was the



Through December 31. Info 860-42655. Firebird Cafe in Essex Junction.

FOCUS ON MY MARKFIELD (Exhibition of local photographers). Museum of Markfield. Through December 31. Info 406-2564. Info: MoM. markfield.org

4000 PHOTOS (Exhibition) speaks to the role of water in human life. At the Vermont Discovery Center. Through January 3. Info 802-372-3858. Burlington Gating in Essex Junction.

LINEAR SIGHTS ("The Return of Design") works in watercolor, graphite and pen and ink for the Vermont artist. Through February 28. Info 783-3332. linearsights.com

MILTON RAY'S BURG (Twenty images) shows photographs that represent the angry, surreal and mysterious side of the artist. Through February 28. Info 860-347-5100. milton-ray.com

PAINTINGS BY NICK NEDDO (An exhibition of works by the second-generation Vermont artist, preparing supplies to an art form unto itself. Neddo forges his painting materials from nature, using fibers, furs, berries, leaves, mud, sticks and stones to render images of the landscape from which they came. On his website, Neddo describes his bold, approach to art production as "unbelievably satisfying on a profound and even intuitive level." Visitors can see the results of his labors at "Elements and After" at the Juddah Public Library in Marshfield through January 30, while copies of his book *The Organic Artist* are also available. *Pictorial "Jolly Gyp and Sugar Maple"* made with manmade ink and with a punch of found cat whiskers, wild turkey feather and magenta twigs.

SHADES OF RED (Works by more than 30 Vermont artists, including photographs on film, videos, prints and collage). Through December 31. Info 802-860-3310. vtspace.com

VISIONS OF FLAKIE CHERYL AND RUSTY (Local landscape painter Flakie Cheryl Watson (born Kay) and her husband, painter Andrew Watson (born Andrew), are the subjects of this exhibition. Through January 30. Info 802-860-2323. [jones-gallery.com](http://www.jones-gallery.com)

BURKE/MONTPELIER

ALICEYAH PHILIPS AND JANNIE CARIBER (Interior, exterior, landscape and nature in mixed media and monotype). Through December 31. Info 802-246-5500. gallerystreet.com

ART RESOURCE & EDUCATION CENTER/HENRIETTE DASH (The one-room schoolhouse that inspired the painter). Through January 2. Info 802-860-2444. dash.org

CELESTINE (A year-long international exhibition of 1000 artworks using a wide variety of fine art, photo and mixed media). Through December 31. Info 479-7000. bluebellplace.org/exhibitions

CHARLES FLEM (Over 80 books). *Burkeville* (photographs taken in Vermont country inns). Through July 1. Info 802-466-1938. vermontlibrary.org/charles-flem

CLAY SYSTEM (Rugosa and Mollie). Recent paintings. Through December 31. Info 802-860-5454. clay-system.com

COVINGTON MUSEUM EXHIBIT & SALE (800) 444-9999. Vermont artists including Carol Lipp, Lorraine Moulton and others are painting, drawing, mixed media and mixed media. Through January 31. Info 802-860-3111. vermontmuseum.org

JOSEPH HAN PAPERMAKERS (Vermont-based paper studios) are participating for the first time. Through December 31. Info 802-860-5657. vermontpapermakers.com

MARK HEDGES (Paintings and Calderes). Recent works with original set designs by the local artist and author. Through January 30. Info 456-3881. markhedges.com

THE MURKIN ART INSTITUTE (An exhibition of recent figurative artworks by the artist). Through January 30. Info 802-323-4234. markmurkin.com

NICK NEDDO

For the second-generation Vermont artist, preparing supplies to an art form unto itself. Neddo forges his painting materials from nature, using fibers, furs, berries, leaves, mud, sticks and stones to render images of the landscape from which they came. On his website, Neddo describes his bold, approach to art production as "unbelievably satisfying on a profound and even intuitive level." Visitors can see the results of his labors at "Elements and After" at the Juddah Public Library in Marshfield through January 30, while copies of his book *The Organic Artist* are also available. *Pictorial "Jolly Gyp and Sugar Maple"* made with manmade ink and with a punch of found cat whiskers, wild turkey feather and magenta twigs.

WORKS FROM BURKE 3 CHIBBL (Students at Judah Ladd's art school present their artwork to the public at an invitational. Through December 31. Info 802-860-3280. vtspace.com

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

THREE OF A KIND (An exhibition opening the third Saturday of every month). The exhibition features three local artists and their work. Through December 12. Info 802-860-3280. vtspace.com

THE VERNACK MUSEUM (A collection of over 100 Vermont artworks, including prints, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, metalwork and fiber art). *Carrie Knapp's Vermont* (ceramic sculptures). Through January 3. Info 802-860-4234. vertnack.org

THE VERNACK MUSEUM (A collection of over 100 Vermont artworks, including prints, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, metalwork and fiber art). *Carrie Knapp's Vermont* (ceramic sculptures). Through January 3. Info 802-860-4234. vertnack.org

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WISDOM IN INNOCENCE: TRAVELERS AND TORCHBEARERS Photographs document, analyze and interpret the mission and early years of the Innkeepers Free Library, a university private estate in the first decades of the 20th century. Catalog \$10. Through January 26. Innkeepers Free Library, 1000 Innkeepers Free Library,通过 Dec 26. Info 802.860.2373. Innkeepers Free Library & History Center, Norwich University in Northfield.

ADMISSION/FREE/UPPER DECK

THREE LEGACY COLLECTION Landscapes painted by 101 Vermont 18 New England artists that reflect the legacy of the mountains, rivers and artists who have shaped them. **THREE LEGACY** is a collection of 120 local Vermont artists' original paintings. Through Dec 26. Info 802.860.2373. Innkeepers Free Library,通过 Dec 26. Info 802.860.2373. Innkeepers Free Library & History Center.

CELESTE HODNETT Treasured Paintings, small abstract landscapes and more. Through January 26. Info 802.860.2373. Green Mountain Free Art Gallery in Waitsfield.

CARMEL TEMPESTA Our World Chameleons & Colors. Thirty detailed paintings of chameleons from around the world. Through January 26. Info 802.860.2373. Innkeepers Free Library,通过 Dec 26. Info 802.860.2373. Innkeepers Free Library & History Center.

ROBERT ARTS PHOTO EXHIBIT Impressions of dedicated public events of the monthly photojournalists meeting. Through January 4. Info 802.860.2373. West Art in Montpelier.

ROBERT GALTIERI AND STEPHEN ARTY Illustrations currently in production for the 2012 Calendar. GALTIERI (left) Hyperion and the 9-11 Memorial; GALTIERI AND ARTY (right) The 9-11 Memorial II. At the Vermont Art Center in Waterbury. Many other works and original drawings are available. Through December 20. Info 802.860.2373. Planet Profiles Gallery in Stowe.

wind river valley/burlington

BLAKE LARSEN Impressionist and abstract expressionist and abstract figurative paintings. Through January 19. Info 802.860.2373. The Huds' Mackie Gallery in Waterbury.

HOLIDAY GIFT EXHIBITION Impressionist works by James and Helen Hough, Dale Cuban, Kenneth Morgan, Brian, Steven Lewis, Sherman Merritt, George Mitchell and Sean. Last chance to shop early in a variety of mediums. Through January 10. Info 248-3823. Art's Galley, 1 Prudential Center, Waterbury.

JOHN PELEDY "Broke" will have sculptures and small mixed-media art with 100% of the proceeds donated to the Vermont Food Shelf. Through January 10. Info 802.860.2373. Westerly Fine Art in Waterbury.

MARY WEA New works by local artist. Through December 20. Info 802.860.2373. Three Mountain Dale in Waterbury.



"Go for Broke"

Money, addiction and the desire to both are at the heart of this two-artist exhibition at Burlington's SPA C.E. Gallery. Benjamin Peabody's collage artfully advertising with their recontextualization of found imagery; gallery owner Christy Mitchell's mixed media works are more pointed. An alter-like installation is a monument to both excess and the urge for more, among the evidence are strips of discarded luxury scratches, which Mitchell also used as the basis of eight prints depicting "Money! Money! Money!" The gallery has recently added a new title, *Broke*. Also, so you can get your caffeine and art fix at the same time. Through January 15. Peabody: "I'm So Happy" by Peabody

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2015 at the Movies

The good, the bad and whatever the hell *Tomorrowland* was

BY MARGOT HARRISON AND RICK KISONAK



RICK KISONAK Hollywood is a pretty happy place right now, and the reason has nothing to do with Bradley Cooper. Rather, it has to do with sequels, remakes and reboots. And, even though close, with franchises largely on the basis of their greatest 2005 box office hits already sagged last year by 4 to 5 percent, according to Box Office Mojo. Which real money when you're talking billions.

Those figures come from early December, with a highly anticipated new chapter of *Star Wars* and the vast majority of awards contenders yet to hit the screen. When the dust clears and the big bell drops at New Year's Eve, movie industry history may have been made.

I find both fascinating and a little sad. I'm old enough to remember when people complained about sequels and anything that smacked of studio corner-cutting and profit grubbing. I suspect today's industry heads don't believe their back. They're change and with them, audience preferences. For whatever reason, the current generation of moviegoers seems happy with Hollywood's business plan.

Get this: Last month, AMG Pictures announced it would remake Christopher Nolan's 2000 breakout thriller *Memento*, and eyebrows went virtually unraised. Studio head Minnie Sundblad said by email in a press release, "We intend to deliver a memorable movie," and the *Twilight* saga did no one favors.

Rather, viewers love it and shell out for sequels such as *Jurassic World* (the year's No. 1 release, at press time) and *Parsons 7* (No. 41, remake of *Police Story* and *Point Break*, and the movie-ender *Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy*). The comic-book movie, with its endless array of character cameos, has become a cash牛 (and a marketing tool). Marvel has already set its release schedule through November 2020.

Franchises are the future. One of these days, you and I could find ourselves writing a year-in-review piece composed of nothing else. How have you had that realization yet?

MARGOT HARRISON Not yet, perhaps because there's one thing I like about franchises: They're long-form storytelling, and they force us to savor to celebrate strong narratives for complex characters. I just wish those narratives didn't involve so much smashing of CGI buildings.

I'll just repeat what I say every year: Original, intelligent movies exist. If you want to see them anywhere but video on demand, leave your living room. Patronize your local art house or film series, and then give the manager or organizer a list of other movies you'd love to see there. We have it in our power to prevent theaters from becoming the exclusive domain of 3D blockbusters. And I know plenty of young folks who believe in that goal.



Most Stellar Performance

RK: I got a charge out of the range Brad Pitt displayed in the two roles he played this year — an alcoholic writer in *By the Sea* and a financial wiz in *The Big Short*. I like him now, about the same moment as *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* when Tina Fey character Christopher Walken's *Paddington* was given to Steve Jobs, as was Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Revenant*. But Pitt got to go with the tag team of Paul Dano and John Cusack, who between them produced a histrionically perfect portrayal of Brian Wilson in *Love & Mercy*. This was one time a split personality was a good thing.

MH: For me, this was the year that produced a wealth of stunning female performances, from Keisha Castle and Gina Rodriguez in *Goat* to Susan Sarandon in *Brooklyn* to Nina Dobrev in *Phantom* to Emily Blunt in *Alcatraz*. But my favorite as

Ben Stiller's portrayal of the alternately tender, angry and desperate young mother in *Boomer*.

Most Annoying Performance

RK: Diane Kruger (*Queen of the Desert*), Sanaa Lathan (*The Gunman*) and Yael Stone (*Mad Max: Fury Road*) spring to mind. But really, nothing was quite as annoyingly awful as Dennis Dunigan's over-the-top Nana in *Mr. Right*. Blah, blah, blah. I hate it. *Leslie*.

CAN'T A NOT-SPECIAL BOY OR GIRL SAVE THE WORLD FOR ONCE?

MH: I liked Shailene Woodley in *District 9*. But as the whiny voice of the coddle robot Chappie, he made me want to flip a switch, understanding the film's message



about the marriage's transvestity. Alida Víkander made a far better Turing test candidate in *Ex Machina*.

Best Comedy

R&R *The Martian* Just kidding, though "Material or Comedy" is the category in which the Hollywood Foreign Press Association has nominated the film for a Golden Globe. Alongside *Transcendence* and *Roy* — which, I'm pretty sure, makes the Golden Globes the movies the year's best comedy. My own household's attention goes to *While We're Young* and *Alfonso's America* (it was a very good year for *Nebraska* obviously). But for all-out, anything-goes laughs, no other comedy comes close to *Sisters*.

MH *What We Do in the Shadows* isn't particularly gaudy (despite its silly vampires' speech) or ribbon-breaking. It's just flat-out lovely and hilarious, thanks to committed character work and even more committed silliness.

Laurest Comedy

R&R *Get Hard* and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2*. *Get Hard* achieved a level of proficiency I wouldn't have imagined possible based on the original. *Despicable Me* told the story of a tortured psychology professor so indomitable it was torture to sit through (it was a very bad year for *Moody Allen*). *Get Hard* kill-me-now! *Laurens*, however, instead held a Christmas-musical to *Leave the Coop*. I'm off to encourage equality with same exception: There ought to be a law against certain movie marriages, and the union of Diane Keaton and John Goodman in the test case I'd use to argue the matter before the Supreme Court. *Get back*.

MH *The D Train* was a cringe comedy with a cloying premise that I wanted to love. Unfortunately, most of the cringes ended up coming from the filmmakers' one-note conceptions of their characters.

Biggest Letdown

R&R *The Hateful Eight*. Hey, Hey, Que posse! Tarantino is a genius, no argument there. His two preceding films rank with his best. But all winning streaks come to an end. The master's latest has its moments, but most of the aces in its blunted, paley, cape-rallying running time honestly rank with *Jackie Brown* and *Death Proof*. This is self-indulgent, second-rate *Tarantino*.

MH You want to talk blotted? *Resonance* (Lobel's) is fascinating, rife with the *Reverent* deserves awards, but in other respects, *Elounda Alejandro González Iñárritu's* intent to be an overlong, overwrought, self-important movie with a weak storyline. Go to admire the exquisite landscape shots and a few set pieces.

Biggest Surprise

R&R Jason Segel's safely powerful portrayal of David Foster Wallace in *The End of the Tour*. I was half-registered. From last year's *Role Tide* to *that*? Who saw this reviewer, er, die, *funny*, immensely layered performance coming? It's easily one of the year's best and deserved far more recognition than it received.

FOR ALL-OUT, ANYTHING-GOES LAUGHS, NO OTHER COMEDY CAME CLOSE TO SISTERS.

MH *Mad Max: Fury Road*. I wasn't expecting a belated entry in this franchise to be my favorite action movie of the year, possibly of the decade. But George Miller's return to the postapocalyptic desert war party that's extreme, quirky and exciting.

Film So Forgettable I Didn't Remember Seeing It Until Compiling This Year-End Review

R&R *The Lazarus Effect*. What's to remember about this derivative riff on resurrection? Mark Duplass and Oliva Wilde play Frank (get it — *Frankenstein*) and Zos, a pair of lone-mack researchers working on a serum for bringing back the dead. Which is a tad toxic, given what a lifless, inedible mess that is.

MH It takes me a few years to forget a movie's existence. But usually the only thing I can remember about *The Transporter Refueled* is the crime crew of former prostitutes who disguise themselves by donning identical dresses and wigs like an *Smash* to Robert Pollard's "Subsidized to Love" video.

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2015 at the Movies

Best New Name to Watch in Front of the Camera:

RRK, Room 102 is Jacob Tremblay's first movie performance, but it's the 9-year-old's breakout. The young Canadian is ridiculously convincing in the role of a boy who's spent his entire life locked in with his mother in a small space. The gamut of emotions and reactions Tremblay handles would have been crazy impressive for a kid who hasn't even turned 10.

MH: Soulful coming-of-age movies are a dime a dozen, but *Beloved* brings a new kind of honesty and verve to *The Story of a Teenage Girl*. Neither a willowtree nor a Lolita, but Minnie is hungry for life, charismatic and definitely herself. I hope we see that British actress more often.

Best New Name to Watch Behind the Camera:

186. **JK, Louise Anderson** is not exactly a new name. She's been one of the most prominent names in performance filmmaking, and her debut, *Heart of a Dog*, has been winning awards and festival medals since its premiere at the Telluride Film Festival in September. It's even been short-listed for an Oscar. The experimental documentary, about a lonely film as a one-of-a-kind companion, starts streaming on Netflix on Friday, November 10. **JK**

MH: Round Robert Mitchell, writer-director of *The Myth of the American Sleepover* (2008) and *It Follows*, one of my favorite movies of 2014. Though one of those films is technically a coming-of-age drama and the other is horror, they're more alike than you'd think — both moodily bizarre and memorable.

Most Inexplicable Hit

BB: It's unclear on how *Taken 3* (No. 38) made the list of the year's 20 top-grossing films, according to Box Office Mojo. And I've got to admit, the appeal of *Person 7* (No. 44) kind of...Miles away from me, even after a week.

where Van Damme in the face of a global multimillion-dollar franchise? like the movies whose success surprised me the most, was *Jurassic Park*. Sure, it was a simple lesson of D&D savviness this. But the lesson in the Jurassic Park series is that while chaotic variation from the first, the story line was essentially the same and the ending was a doomsday repeat. Story that translates if one more than a billion and a half dollars worldwide is beyond me.

MI: I guess I can understand why Memes stands at No. 5. Kids love those little cheery yellow guys, and I hear they make good Facebook entries or something. *Bill Sienkiewicz* (No. 130), a disaster movie without a single original idea, really shouldn't be occupying the space above Mad Max.

Most Inexplicable Flop

EE: Given that it was made by Paolo Sorrentino, whose *The Great Beauty* took the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar last year, I imagined there's been so little love for South. Michael Caine and Harvey Keitel are great as old friends looking back at their lives. It's got one of the year's best scripts, a gorgeously shot in the Alps and has a soundtrack by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang. www.240.com/boxOffice/Movies/2015.asp — come on, guys, it's time to give it some love.

154. Heath hasn't had a chance yet. It's only been in limited release for three weeks (in just one state) but it's already won a Golden Globe and is a favorite at the Sundance Film Festival. It's a movie that deserves a look. I would recommend it to anyone. For its story, let's just say, what a gorgeous, overhyped, joyful concoction it is. The costumes alone, if you like that sort of thing, are worth the rental price, and Jessica Chastain wears them while consuming whole mouthfuls of asparagus.

THE FILM TELLS A SAD BUT TRUE STORY
THAT NO ONE WHO SEES IT WILL EVER FORGET

Freshest, Most Creative Seasonal...

JK: *Easy Animatrix* by Charlie Kaufman. stop-motion animation, graphic sex and a motivational speaker undergoing an existential crisis. He will have myself



MR: The screenplay for *Final Destination* was clever and moving enough to charm both kids and their parents. I loved the comic accents with which The Big Short read up dull-as-dirt financial concepts. And *Mr. Macbeth's* twisted script helped revive brainy science fiction.

Most Formalistic, Cliché-Infested Screenplay

NR. Beck in July. I wrote, "OMG, it's official: *Worst Movie of the Year*... it's simply incomprehensible that a studio will release a more derivative, wistful, meekly sentimental or cynically concerned piece of cinematic muck than *The Gallows*." Turns out I actually ended up using something worse. But that was bad. Totally heart-breaker. Highest click count of the year.

ME: Open letter to Aaron Sorkin: Please stop writing shows that preach so as how to teach a religious arc really just want to be loved. I know this is an unpopular opinion, but very little of the dialogue in Steve Jobs may true to, or say anything that could be uttered by human beings in the situations depicted. (Yes, Steve Jobs is way less heretical than, say, *Play It Again, Sam*. But we expect subtlety more than that from a Sorkin script, or at least we should.)

Best Movie With No Movie Stars

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The Look of Silence



The Big Short

MH: Tangerine, a dynamic little LA indie with two trans actresses in the lead roles. It's a comedy (surprisingly) about a Christmas Eve revenge mission.

Worst Movie With an All-Star Cast

EE: Who the hell was *Tomorrowland*? If you ask me, the first film from Brad Bird wasn't so much a movie as two hours-plus of product placement. The nerve of Disney to sell attaches to an ad for a theme-park attraction to which it wants to sell us tickets. That's not genius. That's corporate greed. Even George Clooney couldn't save this one.

MH: Sandra Bullock tried to stretch her range with *Our Brand Is Crisis*, while Tilly Bob Thornton played to type,

and a bunch of other fine actors were simply wasted in underwritten roles. None of them come out looking good.

Whom We'd Like to See More of at the Movies

EE: I wasn't as crazy about *Grandma* as a lot of critics were, but it did remind me that the movie could use a lot more Lily Tomlin.

MH: Tsgut! Also, the Brop-dughters. This year, Kristen Bell was an intensely tragic presence alongside her mom in the uneven *Rock and the Flesh*, making me want to see her in a lead role.

Whom We'd Like to See Less of at the Movies

EE: I hate to keep dumping on Diane Keaton, but my God. Has there been another actress who's so hideously trashy in a significant film legacy? From *Annie Hall*, The Godfather and Reds to *Because I Said So*, *And So It Goes* and *The Big Wedding*. If she's going to be such consistently checkbeatin' company, I'd rather not have her around.

MH: "Chosen one" characters — a trend that reached its nadir with the cynical revision of Peter Pan into the lead, pretentious, unmanaged Pan. Must everyone be Harry Potter or Luke Skywalker? Can't a not-special boy or girl save the world for once?

Best Documentary

EE: This was a phenomenal year for documentaries. How often do you see films as fabulous as *The Look of Silence*, *Let Me In*, *Hearts in Motion*, *Heart of a Dog*, *Going Clear* Scientology and the Prison of Belief and *Exit Before It's Too Late* all released in the same 12 months? Not to mention that Michael Moore is back (*Where to Invade Next*). Even in a film that's extraordinary, however, Amy Madigan's

MH: *The Look of Silence* is an essential sequel to *The Act of Killing* — together they give a fuller picture of a place where atrocities are so easily dismissed by the perpetrators, not forgotten by the survivors. It's also a rare, tiny action thriller.

Most Disposable Movie Franchise

EE: I'd love to do something with the *T*'s. [Whisper] agoo, and it's in a Taken 4 scenario — great. I'm not sure "great" is the word I'd use, but that's Liam Neeson's

official position on the prospect of yet another Taken sequel. I say, Mila, if you want to make some money, save us from more of this increasingly insipid series.

MH: As a horror fan, I dug the end of the *Deadalus* and *Parasite of the Ark* series. They started with *Zero*, but the series are long gone, and they lack the camp appeal that helped render *Freddy*, *Jason* and *Michael Myers* enduring.

Worst Picture

EE: Love the Coopers wasn't just the year's lamest comedy; it was the lamest movie, period. Technically, I gave *The Lovers* an even worse review, but the pop just gave *Mother Teresa* a snub, and I don't want to go to hell.

MH: The MTV time-travel found-footage movie *Project Almanac*, which came across as a 10-year-old's attempt to catch up back to the Future with Primer after sleeping through most of both. And I like the found-footage format.

Best Picture

EE: *Splendid* is one of the great newspaper movies of all time, a film on par with *All the President's Men*. In this audience-awards contest from director *Team McCaffrey*, Mark Ruffalo, Brie Larson, John Slattery, Lake Bell, Schreiber and Stanley Tucci do some of the most impressive work of their careers. Michael Keaton is as good as he's looking at the possibility of back-to-back Oscar nominations. Finally, the film tells a sad but true story that no one who uses it will ever forget.

MH: My favorite of this year's films is the spirit of *noir* — highly stylized, dread-susisted tales of the desperation that can result from the workings of complex systems that run rings at the core. In *The Big Short*, it's the American financial system and the Elites "because" are actually scoundrels who had a way to profit from the collapse. In *Seeds*, it's the drug war and Kenny Leon is the human whose ideals are so much a waste that Roger Deakins' operatic cinematography gives the Loner the edge for me. But both movies strike exactly the right balance of gritty procedural detail and cinematic flavor. They're epic for picnickers. ☺

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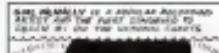
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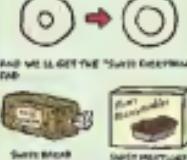
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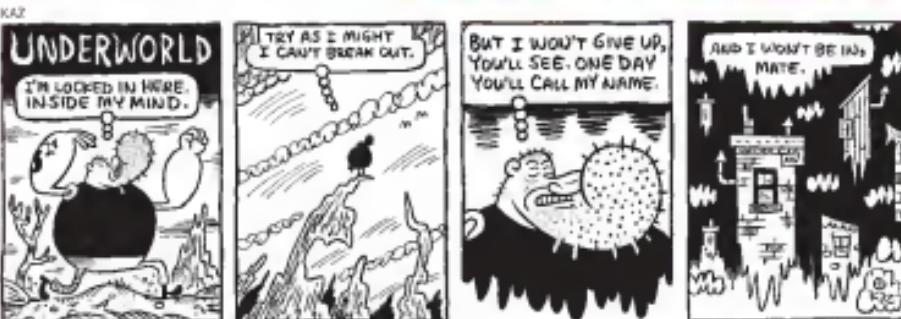
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THIS modern world

By TOMORROW





Capricorn

(DEC 21-JAN 19)

In his essay "The Iniquities at Rovendo's Post," Gary Snyder says that "whatness" is "perennially within us, awaiting as a mere seed the soil, awaiting the fire or flood that makes it again." The seed that's a "true seed" need not become seed. The wild stuff makes the star-studded casting may not be able to do without short gearing without the help of a road, a river or road? They might do the job, but I propose: Economy that in 2016 you find an equity value that less disruptive post to liberate your inherent richness. Look what! You could extract on a lesser pilgrimage or quest. You could climb greater peaks, escape your comfort zone. Are there any underdeveloped territories you've been supressing? Disappoing? Don't

ARIES (March 21-April 19) John Keating is an ardent reformer. He wants to make things applicable to your journey now. He's keeping his fingers crossed that it's being a seemingly throw-away phase of your life that will not be a turning point. His goal: to end your play days with half-hidden smolder in a storm of inopportune events. They don't come about through "no" votes or joining "opposition." Keating says, but rather by tiny, unpredictable disturbances between one ordinary day and the next. In reviewing this, I hope he's alerting you to the importance of using each moment's integrity and excellence in your everyday routine.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The coming months look like one of the best times ever for your love life. All domestic wounds will easily begin to heal. You'll know when you have to do to shed old traditions and bad habits.

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that have limited your ability to get the spacy detachment you desire. Are you up for the challenge? Be aware of sleep terrors. Be a bit more aggressive in pursuing your personal yearnings. Use your intuition to dream up new approaches to getting what you want. The innovations in intimacy that you will make in the coming months will keep bringing you gifts and teachings for years to come.

GEMINI (June 21-June 20) In-constant lines of the sky know the difference between stars and planets. The stars remained fixed in their places. The planets were known to always shifting positions in relation ship to the stars. But now and then an unpredictable interval, a very bright star would suddenly materialize out of nowhere, stay in the same place for a while and then disappear. Chinese astrologers called these "guest stars." We refer to them as supernovae. They are primarily due to unstable stars that explode, releasing tremendous energy for a short time. I suspect that in 2016 you may experience the out-of-the-ordinary qualities of a guest star. Levels you can see in 2016 provide teachings and blessings that could last for years.

CANCER (July 22-July 22) Be alert for an abundance of interesting lessons in 2016. You will be offered teachings about a variety of practical subjects involving how to take care of yourself really well. How to live the life you want to live and how to build the connections that serve your dreams. If you are even moderately responsive to the prompts and nudges, just come your way, you will become smarter than you thoughts possible. Just imagine how many you could if you deeply embrace your educational opportunities. Please note that some of these opportunities may be primary or foreign.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The unknown grows big. Once it's beaten, it sits contentedly for three weeks. By the time it spews its content, 10,000 times heavier than it was. In the beginning. On the other hand, a massive 60-foot tall sequoia reaches暮 into 30 years. It fully grows a new side arm life in its being.

That's what I can tell. Leo 2016 will have lots of challenges for you. However, 2016 will more closely resemble a sequoia. Keep in mind that while the sequoia phase is different from your salmon phase, it's just as important.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) "The sky calls me" wrote Maya Angelou and poet Edna St. Vincent Millay. The moon and stars call me. The stars guide me. The dance at the bottom calls me. Soles call me. Trees call me. A soft melody calls me. The moon moon call me. Everyone is reaching out to a partner. Everyone is calling me. "Come come" in 2016. Virgo, I suspect, you will have a lot of frustration experience with feelings like these. Sometimes life's attractions may overwhelm you, confusing confused desires as go everywhere and do everything. On other occasions, you will be enchanted by the sun invitations that will draw you in and expand and incorporate

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) In the 18th century, names were a primary mode of personal identification. Name them and then attach an adverb to emphasize what was learned. Just as cities grow larger, a problem emerges. The increasing masses left behind an image that became, on ever-increasing challenges to clean many of the capital pollution. In 1894, a British newspaper predicted that the streets of London would be never again free of the stink by 1910. But then something unexpected happened: cars. Carefully the thought of an incremental apocalypse ended. I present this story as an example of what I expect for you in 2016. A pressing dilemma that will productivity dissolve because at the heart of a factor you can't imagine yet.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) The long journey in the world flows through eastern Africa. The fire it originates below the equator and ignites the Horn of Africa's desert deserts. Attachments become more and more problematic. Sunna. That's why certain human beings find it really challenging for thousands of years. They can either go with the flow of the water or use sand to harness the power of the fire. I propose with the power you already possess

that we isolate the fire you attack me again in 2016. Scorpio. You need versatile resources that enable you to come up with a plan — that are flexible in supporting your efforts to go where you want and never give up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) In using rules, strict and fully useful if life too hard. Hierarchies often have to soften it a bit. This process, which is called tempering, makes the steel stronger and more malleable. Our parts, for example, can't be too rigid. If they were, they'd break too easily. I invite you to use "tempering" as one of your main approaches in 2016. Sagittarius: You're going to be strong and vigorous, and those qualities will serve you well. If you want them though, do you know the word "double"? It just looks it up. It's a word of power for you.

CAPRICORN (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Frederick the Great was King of Prussia between 1740 and 1786. He was also an Aquarian who, sometimes, experimented with alternate sexes. When he invested his effort for example, he used Champagne instead of water once the hot wine was ready to drink. He invested in a cloth of powdered mustard in light of the astrological constellations. I suspect that Frederick's secret blend might be an apt symbol for your life in 2016: a regimen with complex synthesis of Champagne, carobs and mustard. (He, Frederick, insisted that "courageous comes happiness to the brain.)

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) My Pisces acquaintance Arturo plays the piano as well as anyone I've heard. He tells me his best teacher produced 150 different sounds from any single key. Using the tool people accumulate for some of the wisest. Here lie lessons in key is an even more important factor. It can be perturbative. Pisces: Discard learned things and bring other friends. I invite you to cultivate a similar approach to your undertake in 2016. Expanding your identity to come out the better in them. Learn how to be even more expressive with the power you already possess.

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